

One more reason to feast on cherries – they can boost your immunity to cancer!

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"Our puppets can do modern dance, crack melon seeds and kiss."

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Flash animation creation makes Bu Hua rule like a king and work like a slave.

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Regulation on Vagrants to be Abolished

The central government adopted a draft regulation Wednesday on the treatment of vagrants and beggars in urban areas.

The executive meeting of the State Council, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, found that the regulation the central government issued in 1982 on housing and repatriation of such people is no longer appropriate for the current situation.

Officials attending the meeting said that with the great economic and social changes that had taken place during the past two decades, the situation with regard to the migrant population

had also changed significantly.

The draft regulation was designed to resolve the problem of vagrants and beggars in urban areas and improve social relief mechanisms and related regulations, the meeting concluded.

It was decided that the existing regulation should be abolished and a new regulation adopted, which would be implemented after further revision.

(Xinhua)

Fatal beating

Sun Zhigang, a 27-year-old university graduate and a designer at Guangzhou Daqi Clothing, was

wrongly arrested on March 17 for failing to provide identification. He died in a hospital attached to Guangzhou collecting post three days after his arrest, from injuries sustained in a beating following his arrest.

Chengdu Business News reported Sun's case, which attracted nationwide attention and stirred up dispute about the 1982 collecting and repatriating regulation.

Less than three months later, twelve people were tried at Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court and a verdict was delivered on June 2.

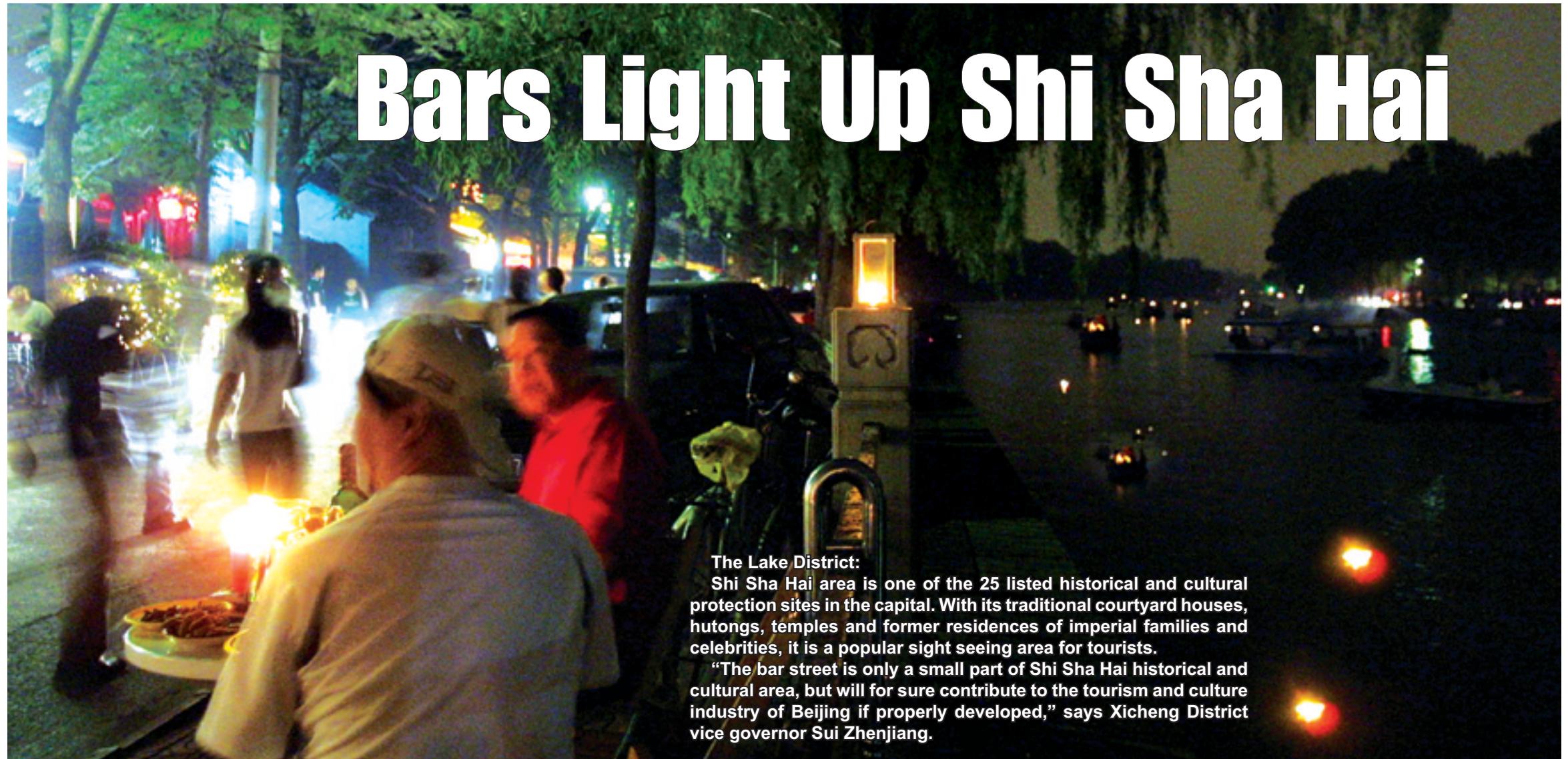
The twelve involved in beating Sun

to death were given sentences ranging from three years to the death penalty.

Six others, one former police officer and five hospital employees, were convicted of dereliction of duty and sentenced to two to three years imprisonment by Guangzhou Tianhe District People's Court and Baiyun District People's Court.

In addition, some 20 staff members from the police, health care authorities and civil affairs administration have also received punishments, including dismissal, demotion or loss of their Communist Party membership.

(Edited by Ivy Zhang)



Bars Light Up Shi Sha Hai

The Lake District:

Shi Sha Hai area is one of the 25 listed historical and cultural protection sites in the capital. With its traditional courtyard houses, hutongs, temples and former residences of imperial families and celebrities, it is a popular sight seeing area for tourists.

"The bar street is only a small part of Shi Sha Hai historical and cultural area, but will for sure contribute to the tourism and culture industry of Beijing if properly developed," says Xicheng District vice governor Sui Zhenjiang.

Photo by Aily

By Xiao Rong

As far as entrepreneur Bai Feng is concerned, the once quiet style of Shi Sha Hai, the city's only open water area, has gradually been destroyed by his numerous imitators.

"Unlike a year or so ago, this is a bright new Shi Sha Hai," says the man credited with starting the development frenzy that has swept through the historic district, sitting in his tropical style Vietnamese restaurant Nuage, which stands just behind his popular No Name bar.

No Name bar opened in 2000, at the northern end of Qian Hai, the southernmost of the three connected lakes that comprise the Shi Sha Hai district. It served as both Bai Feng's home and a meeting place for his friends, and then for his friends' friends ...

Things are very different now, with over 40 bars, including those still hastily being readied for opening, crowded around the lakes' shores.

"The Shi Sha Hai area was the darkest, stillest place in Beijing when I stood at night on top of Jing Shan (the hill behind the Forbidden City) two or three years ago," recalls Bai Feng. "I liked its style then."

This stillness is what initially attracted him to Shi Sha Hai. But now, says Bai, some of his old customers seldom come here. "They complain it's like when a film ends and the patrons spill out of the cinema, with so many cars and people jammed around the bank."

As director of the Shi Sha Hai Scenic Spot Administrative Department Lin Yi says, "There were only ten or so bars and tea houses last October, but the

number has more than tripled in the past two months."

Lin told *Beijing Today* that the average price of the land along the bank has risen from 5,000 yuan per square meter last year to the current 7,000 yuan, with some local residents leasing their *siheyuan*, or courtyard houses, to investors keen to exploit the thriving bar market in this area.

Bai Feng is more lucky as he rented his house in 2000 at an annual rate of only 60,000 yuan, though this has now risen by 30,000. But for those going into business in the area this year, the cost will be much higher.

Ke Wenheng, for instance, is paying an annual rent of 160,000 for his one-month-old bar near the west end of Hou Hai south bank, although he claims not to care about the cost. "I don't mind whether my bar makes money or not, that's not my goal. But what attracted me here is now gradually changing, this bar street is getting more and more commercial," he complains, reclining in a bamboo chair outside his simply decorated bar.

Ke describes his bar and Bai Feng's, as those "quiet kind of bars" with no loud music and no noisy customers, for people who "just want to savor the tranquility of Shi Sha Hai." He holds an obvious disdain for the "noisy bars" and their proprietors who "trample over his ideal in their scramble for customers."

Along the Hou Hai south bank, the "noisy bars" to which Ke refers abound. At night, touts shout at each other to drum up trade, rhythms from one compete with those from the next, and groovy young things sit outside and along the water drinking beer and laughing and shouting. Street peddlers

hawk kebabs and other snacks and a constant stream of cars with horns honking block the narrow lane.

Many local residents are not happy about the changes brought by the bars. "Our peaceful life has been disturbed by these bars," says Granny Zhang, who has lived in Shi Sha Hai for over 40 years.

"They park everywhere, even inside the hutongs, blocking the traffic. They get drunk and make a lot of noise at midnight. The music is also unbearable. But what can we do, those bar owners are wealthy and powerful," says Zhang, whose words are echoed by several of her neighbors.

Ke Wenheng's reaction to the complaints of the locals is vehement. "What they complain about is the fault of those noisy bars. And don't forget those unlicensed peddlers who sell kebabs and *maodou*. Most of them are local residents!"

To preserve the atmosphere of his bar, Ke does not allow customers to bring in such snacks. "Customers who don't like it can go to other bars or go to Sanlitun. But this is Shi Sha Hai."

"We will certainly regulate the

Meanwhile the Shi Sha Hai Scenic Spot Administrative Department is moving to regulate the area. "Since May 23, we have adopted a series of measures with input from various government departments to strengthen management of the bar street," says Lin Yi.

Those bars whose style does not fit with the simplicity of the original architecture must be redecorated under the guidance of experts, he says.

Sui Zhenjiang, vice governor of Xicheng District, told *Beijing Today*, "The bar street is for sure to exist and further develop, but we don't support a free market style, which doesn't match with the traditional cultural atmosphere of Shi Sha Hai area."

Sui said that one of the measures the government is considering is to organize a trade association to promote awareness among bar owners and other business people about the importance of respecting the original style of Shi Sha Hai, so that the prosperity of the bar street does not ruin the atmosphere.

"We will certainly regulate the

bar street, but over-regulation is not advisable. As long as the originality of each bar does not interfere with the historic atmosphere of Shi Sha Hai, we would like to give the street more vitality to prosper," says Sui.

Several new bars, still being decorated, will soon add to the congestion on the already busy bar street, which in the opinion of Lin Yi, already suffers from an over-supply.

"The outbreak of SARS has more or less triggered the sudden prosperity of the Shi Sha Hai bar street, as people enjoy the outdoor fresh air and tranquility of the area. But whether the street can achieve sustainable development still remains to be seen," says Lin.

Yao Mingyi, whose bar on the Hou Hai south bank opened on Monday, expressed a little sadness at the changing atmosphere. A visit to Shi Sha Hai last winter inspired her to open a bar here.

"We will pursue our ideal, though we cannot guarantee profitability," she says with a smile. "But I believe those who really fit in here will survive."



Photo by Zhao Jie

Nanjingers are up in arms over a foreigner wearing a T-shirt with "ten warnings for Chinese," and a national debate has arisen over whether Chinese should be more open-minded when it comes to accepting criticism.

People interviewed by *Beijing Today* reacted differently to the incident. For some, the words on the

T-shirt are insulting rather than humorous, while others see the warnings as useful advice and not to be taken too seriously. For a British man who has lived in China for several years, the incident raises questions about freedom of speech.

(See *Humor or Humiliation*, page 6)

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: LI SHI

Doors Open to Foreign Travel Agencies

By Lily Li

The State National Tourism Administration and the Ministry of Commerce issued a provisional rule last Thursday allowing overseas investors to set up wholly-owned travel agencies in China, two-and-a-half years ahead of the schedule from China's obligations for entering the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Zhang Jianzhong, chief of the policy section of the State National Tourism Administration, said China is actively fulfilling its WTO promises and this rule means more doors are opening in the domestic tourism industry to overseas investors.

According to the rule, overseas investors will be able to set up partly or wholly-owned travel agencies in State Council-approved national tourism zones and the five cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, and Xi'an in Shaanxi Province.

The rule demands these investors should have experience in the tourism industry. Moreover, travel agencies partly controlled by overseas entities should have annual operating turnover of at least \$40 million, while wholly-owned firms need to have over \$500 million in yearly turnover.

Such travel agencies will not be permitted to arrange tours for Chinese mainland citizens to foreign countries or to Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan. Their business is expected to be restricted to visits to the Chinese mainland by foreign tourists and tours within the Chinese mainland for Chinese tourists. Overseas investors will also only be allowed to set up one travel agency each in this country.

Epidemic Deals Heavy Blow to Local Tourism Industry

Beijing is expected to suffer 16 billion yuan (\$1.9 billion) in losses to the tourism sector alone due to the impact of SARS.

According to the latest survey conducted by the Beijing municipal statistics bureau, in the first five months of this year, a total of 694,000 overseas tourists came to the city, a drop of 480,000 people, or 37.3 percent, from the same period last year. Of that total, only 18,000 overseas tourists came to Beijing in May, a drastic decline of 93.9 percent year-on-year. Nearly 8.7 million fewer domestic tourists came to the capital in those five months than last year.

The number of domestic tourists is expected to drop by 20 percent year-on-year in the first half of this year, generating an additional 10.6 billion yuan in losses. (Xinhua)

Auto Industry Goes Flat in May

By Lily Li

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released figures last week that show a significant slump in output of passenger and cargo vehicles in May, leading to a 0.3 percent drop in total automobile output, the first year-on-year drop in several years.

The nationwide output of cargo vehicles plummeted 40 percent last month, while that of passenger vehicles, such as buses, slid 26 percent. According to the NBS, Beijing's largest automobile market in the Olympic Village sold only 3,082 automobiles in May, a 25 percent drop in sales from the month before and the lowest sales

figure in the past few years.

Nearly the only bright point in the automotive market last month was the production of 158,600 cars, an increase of 89.9 percent over the same month last year. Domestic companies made 724,200 cars during the first five months of this year, a 105 percent jump from the same period last year.

The ministry's release notes that due to increased production earlier in 2003, car stockpiles at the end of May were 30 percent larger than at the beginning of the year. For the past two months, supply has exceeded demand by an average of 10,000 cars nationwide.



People on the Shenzhou passenger ship unfurled the national flag as the ship passed through the Three Gorges dam on the Yangtze River on Monday morning, celebrating the start of navigation through the world's largest water control project. Xinhua Photos

New Air Police Force in Training

By Lily Li

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Personnel and the Ministry of Finance announced Tuesday through a televised teleconference that an air police force they are jointly overseeing has begun training. After completing several months of classes and inspections, around 2,000 air police officers will start riding Chinese airlines' flights to ensure their security.

Gao Hongfeng, vice director general of the CAAC said

during the meeting that the air police represent a new style in law enforcement. The members of the team were carefully selected from current air guards and policemen under 28 years old.

The CAAC's public security bureau is in charge of recruitment and will pay the officers' base salaries from national funds, with bonus payments coming from the carriers.

Yang Yuanyuan, CAAC director general, said this air police team is being established with the intention of preventing and stopping illegal

behavior that may endanger flights and passengers' lives, such as hijackings and bombings.

"All air police are required to have good professional skills, as well as acute vision and excellent wrestling abilities," said a spokesman from the CAAC's public security bureau surnamed Song.

Important domestic flights and all international flights of Chinese airlines are expected to carry two air police, who will be equipped with defensive weapons, but not guns, according to Song.



Two Chinese-American women check out the smuggled ancient Chinese terracotta figures at the Chinese Consulate General in New York on Tuesday. These six terracotta figures dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (B.C. 206 - A.D. 25) smuggled to the US were formally returned to China by US Customs that day. They are just a small part of the treasures stolen from an ancient tomb in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, in March 2002.

Bank Tightens Control of Real Estate Loans

By Lily Li

The People's Bank of China issued a circular titled Notice About Further Strengthening Management of Loans to the Real Estate Sector last Friday. The document demands commercial banks take greater efforts to improve risk controls regarding loans made to the real estate industry.

The circular sets stricter loan standards for seven main real estate operations, aiming at developers, construction firms and house buyers. It asks commercial banks to give more loans to residential housing projects for moderate and low-income families and to limit loans for villas, commercial and office buildings, top-grade houses and high-end projects.

According to the circular, developers can only receive loans for less than 70 percent of the purchase price of a property and commercial banks can now only issue such loans under the category of "real estate development credit".

Loans for house buyers can only be issued for real estate projects whose main buildings have been completed, in order to lighten purchasers' interest burdens. Before this circular was issued,

many people took loans to buy homes not even built, attracted by lower prices, but were stuck with longer interest payment periods.

A spokesman from the People's Bank of China told the Xinhua News Agency last Friday that the circular was issued in order to support moderate and low-income families in purchasing houses, to lower the loan risks of commercial banks so as to maintain their stability and development, and to tighten controls on loans to reign in the excessively fast growth of the national real estate industry.

According to the circular, "This document is aimed at implementing real estate credit policies, limiting financial risk and promoting the healthy development of real estate financing."

China's real estate industry has grown tremendously over the past few years. By the end of April this year, outstanding real estate loans exceeded 1.8 trillion yuan (about \$22 billion), accounting for 17.6 percent of all outstanding loans from commercial banks. Personal housing loans reached 924.6 billion yuan, accounting

for 8.9 percent of all loans, according to Xinhua news.

However, the bank spokesman said the real estate sector, widely seen as a key driver of economic growth this year, is overheated. "Structural" problems have emerged since the second half of last year, such as excessive investment growth, rising numbers of unsellable homes and surging prices, he said.

According to Li Minliang, a researcher at the Haitong Institute of Securities, "If the trend of out-of-control development in the real estate market is allowed to continue, that sector might strike a blow to the country's whole financial and economic system. That kind of problem is a major factor in Japan's difficulty in resuscitating its economy."

However, by putting greater pressure on the development and sales of high-priced housing, the new policy could affect other industries such as steel and home refurbishing. Li said that the profits of commercial banks will fall and some social funds will flow from the real estate market into other sectors in the wake of this policy change.

National Economic Growth Rate Will Not Fall Below 7 Percent

According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, the overall economic situation has not been affected by SARS and the country can maintain its forecasted growth rate of seven percent.

Speaking at a forum in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, the bureau's

deputy director Qiu Xiaohua said SARS has had little impact on major sectors of China's economy.

Foreign trade and investment grew continuously during the first five months of this year, while finance and retail prices remained stable.

(Xinhua)

Capital Still Attractive to Investors Despite Virus Threat

The national capital has remained attractive to investors all over the world despite the threat of SARS.

Sources from the municipal commission of commerce said that projects with foreign direct investment surged in the city in the first five months of 2003, involving a total investment of \$2.16 billion, up 41 percent from the same period last year.

In May alone, the municipality approved new overseas-financed projects with a contractual investment of \$140 million, a 16.3 percent increase, and had an inflow of \$250 million of overseas investment, up 10.4 percent.

On June 4, Motorola made Beijing the headquarters for its North Asian operations, and American International Assurance Co., which entered Beijing a year ago, announced that it planned to establish a third business.

development center in the city.

Ikea's China operation announced a plan to build four new department stores in the capital before 2007 at a cost of \$250 million.

Deutsche Bank or German Bank carried out a survey of 29 Fortune 500 companies that have invested in China and found 88 percent of them believed SARS would have a negative impact on foreign direct investment into China.

However, according to that survey, they expected the impact would be limited to contractual investment volume, not the actual inflow of overseas investment into the country.

The city of Beijing was the worst hit area by SARS in China. The World Health Organization renewed an advisory against travel to the capital on April 12 and service trade in the city has been somewhat affected.

(Xinhua)

Bioengineering Base Launched in Suburb

A bioengineering and pharmaceutical industrial base has been launched in Daxing District, a suburb of Beijing.

Nine large bioengineering and pharmaceutical companies recently signed an agreement with the Daxing Industrial Development Zone to invest a total of 900 million yuan (about \$108 million) for the first-phase construction of the new industrial

base.

The zone, one of four major hi-tech parks in Beijing municipality, will cover 2.33 sq km in its first phase. The construction of infrastructure facilities has been completed and preparations are in full swing to set up factories.

Local authorities hope the new industrial zone will be able to generate 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in total sales in the next five years.

(Xinhua)

EBay Buys China Auction Website

By Shan Jinliang

Ebay, the world largest auction website paid US \$150 million to buy the remaining two thirds share of EachNet, China's No.1 online auction business last Wednesday. The move follows eBay's \$30 million purchase of one third of EachNet in March 2002.

The day after the announcement, eBay's share price jumped by 2.23 percent, and domestic analysts have commented favorably on the deal, which represents the largest foreign investment in China's e-commerce industry in the past two years.

Business model

Founded by three Harvard graduate students from China in 1999, EachNet operated all its B2C, or business-to-customer, business in China. Since the government did not allow foreign capital to invest in Internet value-added business then, EachNet had to register in the US to solicit foreign capital, in the same way as Sina and Sohu, which could account for its survival when many domestic e-commerce companies were failing.

From the very beginning, the company based much of its methodology on the eBay model, said Each-

'With more cash and management expertise, EachNet is sure to accelerate its process to reach the goal of profitability.'

— Bai Weiji

Net senior public relations director Bai Weiji.

By last September, EachNet had accumulated two million registered users, and it began charging people who sell their products on the web, with added fees for those who wanted to display their wares on an "e-booth." The charges did not deter users and the sales volume continued to climb by 10 percent per month, and the company is narrowing its loss margin, Bai added.

Mutual benefit

As far as the Chinese media is concerned, eBay is the big beneficiary from the deal, as it gains control of the most successful and only large-scale auction website in China.

EBay said since EachNet is not profitable yet, the purchase will slightly reduce its own earnings in the third and fourth quarters, but

analysts express confidence in the company's future, pointing to China's Nasdaq-listed Sohu and NetEase, whose market value is rising these days, as well as the fact that China now has over 50 million Internet users, second only to the US.

Though Bai said it does not lack money, EachNet chairman and CEO Shao Yibo praised the deal, saying, "eBay is particularly experienced in building online trading platform worldwide." He added that eBay will be able to help EachNet to improve online trading security and provide experience in goods categorization and web design.

Positive sign for e-commerce

"With more cash and management expertise, EachNet is sure to accelerate its process to reach the goal of profitability," said Bai. Usually when there is a new head, managers are likely to change, but not for EachNet. Sources near the company said the existing management team is likely to remain.

Bai added that the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) has provided a boost for China's e-commerce companies such as Sparkice and Alibaba, with more people opting to shop online.



EBay CEO Meg Whitman



EachNet CEO Shao Yibo



Photos by Photocome

US Rules against China in Anti-Dumping Case

By Tony Shaw

The US International Trade Commission (USITC) announced the color TV industry has been "materially injured" by imported Chinese products on Tuesday morning (Beijing Time), as they are sold in its market at less than fair value.

The Department of Commerce will continue to conduct its anti-dumping investigations of imports of certain color television receivers from China and Malaysia, with its preliminary determinations due on or about October 9, 2003," USITC judged in its official website.

The complaint was filed by a US Tennessee electric appliance company, Five Rivers Electronic Innovations, and two US television assembly worker labor unions early this May. They alleged that China exported a sharply rising number of color TV sets to the US market in 2002 and asked that a levy of up to 84 percent be imposed on future imports.

The judge has not imposed any charges against the 11 TV manufacturers, which include Changhong, Haier, Konka and Skyworth, but the finding might pose a greater threat to Chinese TV manufacturers than EU antidumping charges that blocked Chinese TV exports to the EU for six years. If Chi-

neese TV sets are charged with the duty, they will be even more expensive than those made by Japan's Sony, and lose their low price advantage.

Chinese companies started preparing for an unfavorable ruling before the decision was announced. Changhong, which accounts for 80 percent of China's TV exports to the US, announced it has raised evidence to rebuff the charges.

An analyst from a US IT association who requested anonymity told *Economic Information Daily* on Wednesday that with no TV brands marketed in the US, Five Rivers' claim that it had to reduce production capacity and even close factories because of the dumping was open to challenge.

US TV importers Sears, Wal-Mart and Apex offered support for the Chinese companies, and said TV sets made in China and the US are aimed at different market levels, and as there is little or no competition with US products, the dumping charge against Chinese TV sets was invalid.

Apart from the Chinese brands, Philips found itself on the American blacklist, since it exports its TV sets from the Chinese production base. The company said it would cooperate with the Chinese companies to fight the charge, the final judgment of which will come out next February.

Chinese Financial Times – Online and in Print

By Shan Jinliang

Leading financial daily the *Financial Times* launched its Chinese website (zhongwen.ft.com/zhongwen) as part of a coordinated series of moves to seize a slice of the Chinese market.

The newspaper has already revealed plans to the *Hong Kong Commercial Daily* to publish its Asia edition in English (www.ftasia.net) in Hong Kong by the end of September, and over a dozen reporters and editors are ready to work at the soon to be completed Hong Kong International Finance Center.

The new newspaper will put the *Financial Times* in direct competition with its traditional rival, the *Wall Street Journal*, which publishes an Asia edition, the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, and which opened its own Chi-

nese website (www.Chinese.wsj.com) in January 2001. The *Wall Street Journal*'s Chinese website is currently free, but will start charging subscriptions from next January.

The *Financial Times* Chinese website is free to all users, and it offers some news in English, as well as Chinese financial news and stock indexes.

The *Financial Times* Asia edition will focus on local stories, while the UK and US editions will also pick up more Asian stories.

The world's top three selling financial magazines, *Fortune*, *Forbes* and *BusinessWeek*, already publish Chinese editions with their respective partners. Others, such as *Far East Economic Review* are currently working on establishing Chinese versions.

Gloves off in Wristwatch Price War

By Shan Jinliang

Fiyta, the only clock and watch manufacturer listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, has provoked former allies, Rossini, Everbright and Tianwang with its recent 40 percent price cuts on mid-priced watches.

Fiyta's price cut covers all its over 1,000 yuan-priced watches, about 30 styles. In response to the move, senior managers of Rossini, Everbright and Tianwang, the top three watch manufacturers, gathered in Shenzhen on June 4 and announced a price cut of the same magnitude, but only affecting three styles. Last July, the four manufacturers established an alliance to deter such price cuts.

The price war is likely to lead to a shakeup in China's watch industry, said Lin Li, marketing manager of Everbright, who predicted that a number of smaller

watch brands might be totally cut out of the market.

According to Lin, Fiyta's promotion started late last year, when the company started a buy-one-get-one-free promotion.

Zhu Shunhua, secretary of Shenzhen Clock Association said Fiyta has not performed well in recent years, and that its move was aimed at clearing old stock and promoting new styles.

The latest report from China Commercial Information Center show the company had fallen behind Everbright, Rossini and Tianwang, after holding the No.1 spot for five or six years.

Fiyta's annual reports show that the company began to lose money from 2002. In 2001 year, it earned 11 million yuan, a four million yuan fall on 2000.

Lin echoed Zhu's opinion. "Unnamed sources reveal Fiyta has a stock backlog worth up to 100 million yuan," said Lin, who predicted that a number of smaller

and it hopes to narrow the gap between the other top three competitors, at the cost of a fall in profits."

Zhu did not deny claims that Fiyta's price cut was partly related to the SARS outbreak. Companies had to pay the same high charges to the stores where their watches were sold, even if the sales volume was not so high, said Zhu, and SARS had reduced watch sales by 50 percent.

He said Fiyta's price cut had little to do with the Swiss watch show this March, in which Shenzhen watch manufacturers were prevented from participating as a result of the Swiss government's SARS prevention measures, since more than 80 percent of Fiyta's watches are sold domestically.

A sales assistant surnamed Zhou from Wangfujing Department Store told *Beijing Today* the price cut had little effect on watch sales.

Airlines Price Cuts Promote Market Recovery

By Zhao Hongyi

As of this week, domestic and overseas airlines have launched a fierce price war to lure customers who postponed travel due to the SARS outbreak in Beijing. Analysts predict a traveling peak is coming as early as next month.

Air China and Shenzhen Airlines have officially cut their ticket prices by three percent. The reason, as stated by the airlines, is the relaxation of price cutting margins set by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), the government regulator of the industry. However tickets at 30 to 40, even 50 percent discounts are common in the market.

Overseas airlines are more aggressive and competitive. Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific and Dragon Air have dis-

counted 6,500 tickets from Hong Kong to Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Singapore, Manila and Kuala Lumpur. Prices range from 800 to 1,000 yuan.

Singapore Airlines, United Airlines, and Northwest are following suit, offering cheap tickets from Chinese cities to the US, Canada and Australia, at prices ranging between 3,000 and 4,000 yuan. A Beijing-San Francisco return ticket has reached a low of 2,888 yuan, while return tickets from Beijing to Tokyo can be bought for 1,588 yuan.

The queues that can be seen at ticketing halls around the city are an indication that the public are taking advantage of the low prices.

"Unbelievable!" commented Nicholas Burridge, an Australian working here as a business manager. "I couldn't buy a

one-way ticket home for 3,250 yuan before. But now, I can purchase a two-way ticket."

Market analysts say the travel market in China is bouncing back. "If the World Health Organization (WHO) cancels its travel warning for Beijing, quite possibly next month, the market will recover more rapidly," said Dun Jidong, general manager for external travel at China Travel Service in Beijing. "The peak will come in October, if everything goes well."

Other market observers point out that a moderate bounce back will lead airlines to further cut ticket prices. "More cuts are expected in July, provided WHO cancels its travel warning," said Wang Yanguang, marketing manager of China International Travel Service.

Zhongguancun Sees Off First IT Mall



A sign at Cybermart advises customers of the relocation.

Photo by Lou Ge

By Shan Jinliang

Cybermart, an IT shopping mall near the South Gate of Beijing University was almost deserted on June 11 afternoon. It is the first IT market to close its business in Zhongguancun, Haidian District.

It is not long ago that leading portal website Sina and software giant Microsoft moved their offices from the area, and Cybermart's departure must raise further doubts about the region's

business environment. However the top three IT markets, Hilon Electronic Market, Silicon Valley Computer Plaza and Pacific Electronic Market are still crowded, despite the recent fall off in business triggered by the SARS outbreak.

Established in what used to be a residential area in the south of Silicon Valley Computer Plaza last September, Cybermart positioned itself as a shopping mall with a full range of top-brand IT products.

Cybermart North China Region general manager Tu Wenxiang said the leading cause for the failure was the conflict between Zhongguancun's business environment and Cybermart's business concept.

Tu told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday that its shopping mall concept has not been accepted by the current Zhongguancun IT retailers and the consumers, who largely favor the DIY (Do It Yourself) sales model.

Cybermart had an vacant stall rate of around 30 percent from the very beginning, and that grew to 50 percent

just before its closure, while IT retailers complained about the high rent and less than convenient location.

Another analyst told *Beijing Today* Saturday that the high rent could be another major reason for Cybermart's failure. As Cybermart had no property rights over the building, its rent was higher than other IT markets, furthermore, to protect the image of its nationwide chain, Cybermart did not allow tenants to sell counterfeit products like other IT markets, which could also raise its IT product prices.

Cybermart said it would move its store to the Asian Games Village area, in order to be close to the big IT product manufacturers there.

Despite the closure of Zhongguancun store, Cybermart chairman Zhang Ruijin said he would not retreat from his previous plan to open four to six new stores in Beijing this year.

Now Cybermart has established 30 IT chain stores in China and 21 more, including the Beijing stores are planned.

Oracle Boosts Hostile PeopleSoft Bid to \$6.3 Billion

Redwood Shores, US, June 18 (AFP) - Software giant Oracle Corp. ramped up an acrimonious bid to take over PeopleSoft, boosting the offer by \$1.2 billion to \$6.3 billion.

Oracle also announced it would sue PeopleSoft, accusing its board of failing to act in the shareholders' best interests and demanding it remove a "poison pill" threatening the acquisition.

Authorities in Connecticut, meanwhile, said they would sue Oracle to halt the hostile bid on antitrust grounds. PeopleSoft has already launched legal action against Oracle.

The clash between Oracle and PeopleSoft is shaping up as the toughest takeover battle in the technology world since the Internet bubble burst three years ago.

Oracle increased its bid to 19.50 dollars a share from the initial offer of 16 dollars, two days after PeopleSoft rejected the bid and reaffirmed plans to merge with rival business software group J.D. Edwards.

"In the last few days, Oracle executives have had the opportunity to speak with the holders of a majority of PeopleSoft shares," Oracle chairman and chief executive Larry Ellison said in a statement.

"Many of those shareholders indicated the prices at which they would tender their shares. Therefore, Oracle is raising its all-cash offer to 19.50 dollars per share," Ellison said.

"Oracle remains committed to acquiring PeopleSoft and will not be deterred by management's maneuvers to maintain control of a company they do not own," he said.



Larry Ellison (left), chairman and CEO of Oracle Corp. and Craig Conway (right), president and CEO of PeopleSoft

AP Photos

Unstable market

It's still difficult to say whether Oracle will succeed in its hostile takeover attempt.

Regardless of the outcome, the move has definitely destabilized the market. These large vendors are regarded as industry stalwarts that would be around through thick and thin. But clients and prospective clients are questioning their strategies - nobody wants to make a significant investment in a product that may not be there in a few years!

Since the BAAN acquisition by Invensys in 2000, we have noticed a shift in buying behavior among clients toward lower cost software products - getting more by spending less. This requirement provides opportunities to small and medium size software ventures who provide high value solutions by focusing on serving the needs of clients at a reasonable cost.

Consolidation continues

We can't say that this is a "new" wave. In fact, the software industry has been in the middle of a continuous merger and acquisition wave which started in earnest just after Y2K.

No matter what the result with Oracle and PeopleSoft, consolidation will continue. In the middle and lower tiers of the market, opportunistic acquisitions by existing vendors are regular occurrences as well. The results will make the market more competitive and entries for new participants more expensive and difficult.

Meanwhile, opportunities exist for small companies who have a strong balance sheet and a well defined market niche.

— Kevin Hurley, senior vice president, Asia Pacific, Scala Business Solutions Co.

AMR Research analyst Randy Weston said Oracle's chances of success were improving.

"If Oracle does indeed have institutional investors on board, there isn't a lot short of a court order that could stop this deal," he said.

PeopleSoft issued a statement advising its shareholders to take no action until it had time to study the revised offer.

On Monday, PeopleSoft announced it was speeding up its plans for a 1.75-billion-dollar, friendly takeover of J.D. Edwards.

Oracle said it was filing suit Wednesday in Delaware against PeopleSoft, its board of directors and J.D. Edwards for trying to remove PeopleSoft's shareholders' ability to accept its takeover offer.

Oracle also demanded that PeopleSoft remove a "poison pill" provision, which could allow the company to issue new stock, making it too expensive for a predator.



Union workers from Chohung Bank cut their colleagues' hair during a rally in Seoul June 17.

Reuters Photo

Heads Shaved in Seoul Protest

Seoul, June 18 (AFP) - Around 7,000 employees of South Korea's Chohung Bank have gone on strike to protest a government plan to sell the state-owned bank to Shinhan Financial Group.

Chohung was nationalized during the Asian financial crisis in 1998, when the government injected 2.7 trillion won (130 billion US dollars) into the country's oldest lender.

In January a state auction panel selected Shinhan, backed by BNP Paribas SA of France, as the preferred bidder to take over Chohung.

Protracted negotiations for the sale of South Korea's fourth largest bank were being wrapped up this week and the final contract is likely to be signed soon.



Jean-Claude Trichet

AFP Photo

Trichet Acquitted, ECB Job In Sight

Paris, June 18 (AFP) - A Paris criminal court acquitted Bank of France governor Jean-Claude Trichet of false-accounting charges, clearing the way for him to become the next president of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Trichet, 60, and his eight co-defendants were accused of overlooking falsified financial reports concerning Credit Lyonnais in the early 1990s, as the then state-owned bank plunged toward collapse. Trichet was treasury director at the time.

Wednesday's verdict clears the way for Trichet to succeed Wim Duisenberg as the next ECB president, a job he is tipped to assume in July.

Crooked Smiles at Ford Centenary

Dearborn, Michigan, June 16 (Reuters) - Ford held a mostly upbeat shareholders meeting, under tight security, on Monday this week, saying it was on track with its profits and new vehicles as it capped a gala, five-day celebration of its 100th anniversary.

But not all shareholders are happy about the state of the world's second-largest automaker. Ford is struggling with huge pension and health care liabilities and saw its stock drop to a more than 10-year low earlier this year after losing \$6.4 billion in 2001 and 2002.

"Unless the company can reverse its present course, the long-term prospects for Ford's continued success are poor," said stockholder Richard Mills.

(Justin Hyde)

Wholesale Report Renews Deflation Fears

Washington, June 14 (AP) - The threat of national deflation, an economically dangerous long-term slide in prices, rose anew with a second monthly decline in wholesale costs.

The Federal Reserve is expected to shave interest rates this month to guard against possibly worse problems.

The Labor Department reported that its Producer Price Index, which measures prices before they reach consumers, fell 0.3 percent in May from April. That decline followed a record 1.9 percent plunge in wholesale prices registered from March to April.

A big part of the decline in wholesale prices for both months came from retreating energy prices, which had been stoked in previous months on war tensions. Prices for some other goods, including clothing and trucks, also went down.

"There are many flavors of deflation," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "A mild case can hurt businesses but usually isn't a problem for consumers. But in a severe case, everyone is going to get nailed."

The back-to-back declines in wholesale prices come in the aftermath of recent warnings of deflation from Fed chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues. (Jeannine Aversa)

Analyst's Take:

Co-existence of inflation and deflation

In an economy, some sectors will always inflate, while others deflate. Consider the period 1980 to 2002. Commodity prices were declining, while service and in particular health care costs continued to increase.

Inflation at home, deflation in exports

In the US, the price level is still modestly inflating. However, because of the dollar's more than 30% decline against the euro in the last 18 months, in real terms we have already had a dose of deflation.

Given the expansionary US monetary and credit policies, domestic deflation is out of the question.

Asia should forget about the US

It is true that the US has been a driver of economic growth in the last ten years, from which Asia's export machine did benefit.

However, looking forward, I see the US losing its pivotal role for economic growth. Annually, China produces and consumes more TVs, radios, refrigerators, washing machines, motorcycles, steel and cellular phones than the US. Combine this with the Indian economy and the rest of Asia and it is clear that the US, as a trading block, is no longer all that meaningful.

Sure, if the US experiences, as I believe, a terrific economic crisis in the next two years, it will have a temporary negative impact on Asian exporters and to some extent Asian economies. But Asia, with its 3.6 billion people and not-yet-saturated markets can grow from within.

In short, Asia should forget about the US. Economically and politically, it is a lost nation and the only things it is good at exporting are depreciating. In fact, it is my belief that the US needs Asia, and depends on Asia far more than Asia needs the US.

— Dr. Marc Faber, Independent financial analyzer who is also the author of the recently published bestseller "Tomorrow's Gold" and the monthly "Gloom, Boom & Doom" report (www.gloomboomdoom.com)



Two visitors show their interest in the interior design of an aircraft at the 45th Paris Air Show on June 15. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the first flight by the Wright brothers.

Though boycotted by the United States government, the show, which lasts throughout this week, attracts aircraft manufacturers of 38 countries and regions.

Xinhua Photo

Sun, Sand, Sea and Surgery

Bangkok, June 15 (AFP) - Thailand's burgeoning health tourism industry could earn an impressive 100 billion baht (US\$2.4 billion) over the next three years as the country expands facilities and teams up with neighbour Malaysia, health officials said.

Thai Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said the kingdom could double its earnings in the lucrative sector and serve as Asia's health hub if it put in place measures aimed at boosting Thailand's recognition as one of the world's premier destinations for medical and health tourism.

"Health tours will cover health care and check-ups, Thai massage and spa treatments, including herbal medicine," she said.

Sudarat's statement came at the end of her three-day meeting on the Thai resort island of Phuket with Malaysian counterpart Chua Jui Meng.

The two sides agreed to boost cooperation in five fields over the next three years, including herbal medicine development, health tourism, medical research, sur-

veillance of food and medical standards, and monitoring of communicable diseases.

"Thailand can't pull all the tourists in the world to this country, and similarly, Malaysia would not be able to do the same," Chua said in the Bangkok Post.

"But if we can package health tourism together, they may find it more attractive," he said.

Thailand's health ministry meanwhile intends to seek 115 million baht (2.76 million dollars) from the national budget to launch its own medical centers in Bangkok, Phuket and the northern city of Chiang Mai, the minister said.

For years Thailand's booming tourism industry has accommodated visitors seeking sand, sun and surgery -- the medical vacations which see them undergo health treatments or elective surgeries here that would cost several times more in their home countries.

Many come for minor ailments, dental work, or complete physicals, but a growing number of foreigners are electing to undergo

complicated procedures in Thailand such as sex-change operations, hip replacement, or heart surgery.

More than 600,000 foreign tourists used health services in Thailand last year, earning the country nearly 20 billion baht, the ministry said.



Thailand hopes to draw tourists seeking cheap medical care.

AFP Photo

DENTAL CLINIC

รักษาระบบฟัน

Senators to Probe Freddie, Fannie

Washington, June 17 (Reuters) - The US Senate Banking Committee is preparing hearings into accounting troubles at the nation's No. 2 mortgage finance company Freddie Mac. The focus will examine the adequacy of government oversight. Hearings are planned in the House of Representatives as well.

Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae buy loans from lenders and repackage them as securities for investors or hold them in their own portfolios. The two companies owned or had guaranteed 44 percent of the \$6.7 trillion US mortgage debt outstanding as of late 2002.

Freddie Mac fired its president June 6, alleging he failed to comply with the review of an earnings restatement, and its chief executive and chief financial officer also stepped down. Fannie Mae is not subject to formal inquiry, but lawmakers want to examine how the government keeps watch over it too.

(Mark Felsenthal)

United Restores Flights to China

Chicago, June 15 (AP) - United Airlines is restoring flights to China it had dropped because of SARS.

The world's second-largest carrier will reinstate service July 1 between San Francisco and Hong Kong. Flights will be offered three days a week.

It also will increase service between San Francisco and Shanghai to five days a week, up from three days a week this month.

Local Man Notarized for Buddha Mountain Find

By Sun Ming

Last Thursday, Shi Baochen, 47, became the first local person to receive a special notarized certificate for right of discovery for an unusual geologic formation.

Shi went to the Mentougou District Notary Office on Monday last week seeking recognition for finding a mountain two kilometers away from Tanzhe Temple in Mentougou District that looks like a huge, sleeping Buddha.

Before trying to register as the discoverer

of the site, Shi checked with local villagers, none of whom said they had seen the similarity before. He then set a name for the formation, the "Western Beijing Huge Reclining Buddha."

"He asked for notarization for his right of discovery. It was the first time we have received such a kind of application," Hu Qi, an employee at the notary office, told *Beijing Today*.

Hu said that he and his colleagues were interested in Shi's discovery and rushed to the mountain the

day after he filed the application. "It really does look like a reclining Buddha when viewed from the angle Shi told us about," he said.

The likeness is formed by peaks from Yan Mountain, including ones dubbed Big Cow Belly, Drum and Small Incline by local villagers.

The Mentougou District Notary Office conducted a thorough investigation and confirmed that Shi held claim to the discovery of the reclining Buddha, and promptly issued his certificate of right of discovery.

According to the Beijing Municipal Notary Office,



Shi Baochen with the picture he showed the Mentougou Notary Office

even though citizens have long had the right of recognition of discovery according to China's civil law, this is the first time in this city that an individual has applied for notarization of a find. An office employee who requested anonymity told *Beijing Today* that with increasing public understanding of the law, such notarization should become more common.

An article in *Beijing Youth Daily* on Wednesday reported that similar notarized certificates have been issued before in Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia.

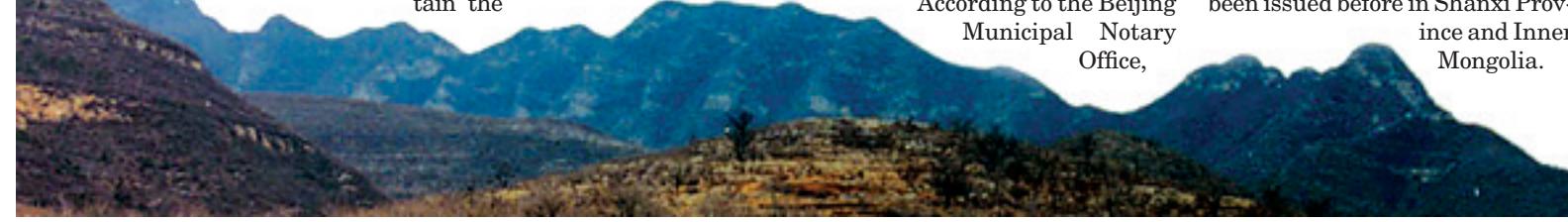


Photo by Shi Baochen

The "Western Beijing Huge Reclining Buddha"

Bereaved Parents Sue Daughter-in-law for Infidelity

By Su Wei

On Monday, a local court found partly in favor of an elderly couple who had filed suit against their former daughter-in-law following a revelation made after the accidental death of their son.

Zhang Tiansi and Wang Yurong, never thought their daughter-in-law, Bai Yumei, showed believable grief over the accidental death of her husband, Zhang Zhao, last year. Later, they also came to suspect the family ties of their granddaughter, Xiao Mei, whom they thought did not look like their son. After ordering a legal medical check in December last year, they discovered the girl was indeed not their son's biological daughter.

In March this year, the couple filed a lawsuit against Bai for being unfaithful to her husband at the Xicheng People's Court, demanding 100,000 yuan for spiritual compensation and to cover Xiao Mei's living and education expenses for the past 13 years. On Monday, the court issued its judgment in the case, finding for the plaintiffs but only awarding some of the damages they sought.

On the morning of October 2 last year, Zhang Zhao, who was mildly mentally handicapped, was found lying on the ground, having fallen from his fourth-floor apartment, by some neighbors. He was immediately rushed to the hospital.

At the time, Bai was at her job as a newspaper vendor and Xiao Mei was in school. When Bai was informed of her husband's accident, she went to the hospital and later took Zhang home. His condition worsened in the afternoon and he ended up dying at home.

"I never thought that he was severely injured," Bai said, according to the court report.

Zhang's parents argued in court that Bai should have told them about the accident, and that if she had not taken him home before he received a thorough examination at the hospital, he would not have died. They insist that their former daughter-in-law showed relatively little sorrow over her husband's death, and even believed she may have murdered him, though such accusations were proven wrong by an autopsy conducted by a medical expert.

It was after the accident that Zhang and Wang began to suspect the lineage of their granddaughter. Xiao Mei's date of birth deepened their doubts, as she was born just around six months after Bai and Zhang Zhao registered for marriage in December 1989.

Bai, originally from Dezhou, Shandong Province, told the court she did not know that Zhang Zhao was mentally impaired before she came to Beijing to marry him. "I once had a boyfriend in Dezhou, but my parents wanted me to get married in Beijing, and I had no choice," she said.

"Xiao Mei is not Zhang Zhao's own child. But, after I married him, I did not have sex with any other men," she added. Bai said she should not be considered unfaithful, as Zhang knew that she was pregnant before their wedding.

The court found Bai guilty of infidelity on the grounds that there was no evidence that Zhang Zhao knew she was pregnant before their marriage. However, the court denied payment of compensation for Xiao Mei's living and education expenses, ordering Bai to pay her former parents-in-law 33,600 yuan to cover the tests of the child's lineage and for spiritual compensation.

(All names are pseudonyms.)



Photo by Lu Xin

Hungry Ghosts Return to Guijie

By Lisa Lee

Last weekend, people were lined up outside restaurants along Dongzhimennei, better known as Guijie or Ghost Street, many with numbers in hand waiting for tables and some food.

Customers have returned in droves to the popular dining area after most spent two months eating at home, and business along the street has rebounded remarkably since mid-May. "The recovery started as soon as the number of daily SARS cases in Beijing fell below ten," Xu Yajun, who oversees Guijie from the Beixinqiao Street Office, told *Beijing Today*.

According to Xu, dinner business has re-

turned to the same level as this time last year, though late-night dining has dropped considerably. He gave the closure of many entertainment venues around town as a possible reason.

The street is still planning to have its second annual spicy crayfish festival, though it will be postponed from its originally scheduled August 28 kick-off if there is still a SARS risk in the city.

Statistics provided by the Beixinqiao Street Office show a daily flow rate of around 3,000 customers to the street's restaurants over the past few weeks, similar to figures from the same period of last year.



Mr. Wen shows his moves. Photo by Cao Buyuan

Losing the Name Game

By Chen Ying

What's in a name? Enough for a Beijing woman to file suit against a local police station last Friday after the station's staff refused to let her register her desired name for her baby.

Huang Yi (pseudonym), a woman who lives near Capital Gymnasium in Haidian District, went to the Dazhongsi Police Station on April 1 and 2 to deal with the *hukou*, or permanent residence registration, for her newborn.

She planned to give the child the surname 萧, or Xiao, which is different from both her and her husband's surnames, though it is a homophone with her husband's name, 肖.

According to Huang, her husband's family name was 萧 before the establishment of New China in 1949, after which it was changed to 肖 when the government began actively promoting the use of simplified characters.

The police, however, did not accept her reasoning and refused to register the baby under the desired name, arguing it has to bear either the mother or father's surname in accordance with the 22nd item of the National Marriage Law and related regulations of the Beijing Police Bureau.

Huang contacted the Haidian Police Bureau on June 6, but received the same answer. She then filed a lawsuit against the Dazhongsi Police Station with the Haidian District People's Court on June 13.

"According to the 99th item of the General Principles of Civil Law of China, citizens have the right to decide, use and change their own names," said Huang.

An Hongshan, a lawyer with the Huicheng Law Firm, told *Beijing Today*, "The two legal documents are not in contradiction. Newborn babies must have one of their parents' surnames according to the Marriage Law, but they can change their names as they wish when they reach adulthood according to the Civil Law."

The court is currently investigating the case.

While many people in this city enjoy their morning exercises, few are as enthusiastic about it as 77-year-old Mr. Wen, who lives in the Pingleyuan community in Chaoyang District. After eight years of doing intense exercise every morning, he is in excellent health and can kick his legs very high, stand on his head for one minute and even swing around a horizontal bar 18 times in a row without any difficulty.

Wen told *Beijing Today* he was not in such good shape eight years ago, when he was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and edema. "After that I realized exercise could improve my health and I started doing morning exercises," he said.

The exercise campaign he has persisted with since then has proven very effective. "In the past years of solid exercise, I have recovered from my cirrhosis and edema and reduced my body weight from 70 to 52.5kg," added Wen.

He also expressed determination to keep up his fitness regime until 2008, when he will be 82 and the Olympics will be held in Beijing.

Donation Defines Filial Piety

By Sun Ming

Last Thursday, just three days before Father's Day, 28-year-old Teng Yu gave his father a most precious and personal gift — one of his kidneys.

At around 10 am that day, doctors removed one of the young man's kidneys and successfully transplanted it into his father, Teng Zhonglu, at 2 pm.

It was the first time in China that a person had donated a kidney to a family member from an older generation.

Teng Zhonglu has suffered from uremia for two years, and since his diagnosis in May 2001, his son has spent over 20,000 yuan on his father's medical care, which includes blood dialysis treatment several times a week.

He is only 28 years old. I was very ambivalent. He always said that 'Our family can't lose our father,' she said.

Even Teng Zhonglu did not support his son, until completely convinced after three months of persistent persuasion by Teng Yu. "What I remember most clearly is when he said, 'if you're not here, there's nothing holding the family together,'" said Teng Zhonglu.

Both Teng Yu and his mother hoped to be able to donate their kidneys, while Teng Yu's older brothers were off the hook because their blood types were not compatible with that of their father.

Cai Ming, one of the doctors involved in both operations, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that the two procedures were successful and the patients are currently in recovery.

Teng Yu will be released from the hospital in a couple of days, while Teng Zhonglu will need to stay in the hospital for observation for around two more weeks.

"My colleagues and I were really touched and impressed by this young man. Since he entered our hospital on May 14, he never hesitated about the donation," Cai said. "In 20 years in medicine, I've heard of parents donating kidneys to their kids, or one spouse to another, but never a young person donating a kidney to a parent."

The doctor added that donating one kidney will not affect Teng Yu's health and should not have any negative influence on the rest of his life. "For most people, just one quarter of a kidney would be enough to support normal life," said Cai.

The Mother of All Playing Cards

By Lily Li

Even without any advertising, a new series of playing cards has proven a hot seller in small commodity markets around the city in the past couple of weeks.

These playing cards stand out because they bear pictures of Saddam Hussein and 38 other former Iraqi leaders now on the US mili-



Photo by Wang Jia

Humor or Humiliation?

Nanjingers insulted by foreigners' T-shirt

By Chen Ying

Locals in Nanjing were enraged when they saw a foreigner wearing a T-shirt with Chinese words reading "ten warnings for Chinese" on Saturday last week.

When the male foreigner, accompanied by a Chinese girl, entered a restaurant on Yanggongjing Street, he soon found people paying more attention to him than normal.

According to a report published in the local newspaper "Xian Dai Kuai Bao", two Chinese, whose surnames were Xu and Chen, sat opposite the foreigner. They felt angry after seeing the tips for Chinese printed on the back of the foreigner's T-shirt: don't stare at foreigners; charge the same price for both Chinese and foreigners; don't say hello or OK to foreigners; don't give them fake money or offer them an unreasonable exchange rate; allow foreigners to stay in cheap hotels.

So Xu and Chen went over and asked the foreigner to take off the T-shirt. Other people in the restaurant supported them. The foreigner asked the girl to call the police, so the cops came along and took the four people to Huaihai Police Station near the restaurant.

Soon two officers from the Foreign Affairs Office of Baixiaqu Police Bureau came to the station to mediate in the case. About an hour later, the argument was sorted out and the foreigner promised not to wear the T-shirt again.

A reporter from "Xian Dai Kuai Bao", Xing Yuanyuan, and photographer Zhao Jie witnessed the whole process in the station. When Zhao attempted to take pictures of the foreigner, he ran away.

"The girl told me they just thought the T-shirt was humorous," said Xing.

Of course, it soon became national news.

Beijing Today contacted the girl, whose surname is Huang, on Tuesday. She said she and her foreign friend had been put under huge pressure since the papers had printed their photos with the report.

"As the foreigner said, the T-shirt he wore was made in China. It's improper to say he intended to insult Chinese," a spokesman from the Propaganda Office of the Political Department of Nanjing Police Bureau told *Beijing Today*.

"Not only Nanjingers are sensitive about something like this," Xing told *Beijing Today*. She also said she suspected the foreigner may have written the words on the T-shirt himself.

Was the foreigners' behavior an insult to Chinese? Or is there nothing to get upset about? Opinions follow.

Xia Xueluan, professor from Department of Sociology, Beijing University

I think the Nanjingers' reaction was reasonable. The important thing is who can wear this kind of T-shirt. Of course, if a Chinese person wears it there's no problem. It could even help in treating foreigners properly. But it's totally different if a foreigner wears the T-shirt. In my mind, it's an insult to Chinese people.

This event shows people pay a lot of attention to national dignity. Certainly, the local people could have adopted a more rational way to deal with the situation. It's unnecessary to blame

the foreigner too much. I think the vendor who sold the T-shirt to the foreigner should be blamed as well. Moreover, the girl who accompanied the foreigner should have known better.

Chinese always take leniency as a good virtue. But it doesn't mean we have to be lenient in all situations.

Cai Fanghua, commentator from Beijing Youth Daily

I reckon there wouldn't have been any trouble if a Chinese person had worn the T-shirt. But it becomes complicated when a foreigner wears it. It's mainly because many Chinese can still only accept self-criticism. No matter what foreigners want to express or what is their motivation, many Chinese will always regard their criticism as malice.

Being tolerant to criticism embodies the open-minded psychology. So if Nanjingers see a foreigner wearing such a T-shirt again in future, I suggest they discuss it with them instead of quarrelling.

Andrew McEwen, from Britain

I read some Beijingers tried to sell a T-shirt with a picture of Osama Bin Laden and the police fined and stopped them. I would like to offer to reimburse them for their losses. I disagree with this kind of police action.

I have family and friends still living in New York directly affected by the events of September 11. It greatly upset me at the time. But a dodgy T-shirt seems a very small price to pay for protecting something I believe is infinitely more valuable.

I believe in freedom of speech. It is something written deep in the western soul and psyche, and something I cherish as an Englishman. It is something I did not even know I cared about until I came to China.

It is true one cannot shout "fire!" in a crowded theater and so it must also be true that no freedom of speech can ever be absolute. Each society and its government therefore chooses its own limits. Here in China, as everyone knows, those limits are far more stringent than in the West.

Maybe I am just a crazy Westerner, but I find it easy to tolerate an insulting T-shirt. Bombs — now they upset me.

Views from Internet Surfers
IP:218.58.16.

Each nation has its own merits and faults. We have to admit some of our habits are really bad. But I found the same thing when I was studying in Britain and the US. I don't think a British person would regard it as humorous if a foreigner wore a T-shirt printed with words insulting the local people.

IP:62.211.192.

One of my foreign friends once bought a similar T-shirt in Kunming. I really love my country. The only word I can't accept on the T-shirt is "warning." But I don't think the other words contain any insult to Chinese. They suggest Chinese shouldn't shout or spit in front of foreigners. I really don't understand what's wrong with this advice.

IP:218.244.106.

Sometimes, Chinese people seem to be more sensitive. But over-sensitivity can only show a nation lacks confidence. We're not a weak nation. I didn't feel any insult from those words.



Take it off!

Photo by Zhao Jie

Readers & Leaders

We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at

comment@ynet.com or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of *Beijing Today*.

America, Don't Turn Students away

By Charles Zhu

A friend of mine, a young woman in her 20s, who had got a scholarship from an American foundation, applied for a visa so she could go to America in the fall. We were all very happy for her. As a promising economist, she would have a chance to broaden the scope of her studies in America. However, to our dismay, she applied for a visa twice and was rejected both times, apparently because she was under the age of 30 and unmarried, which meant there was a suspicion that she was intending to emigrate. Miraculously, he got the visa on his fourth attempt, just one day before the expiration of the form he signed with the college. He bought an air ticket and packed on the same day and arrived in San Francisco just before the form was to expire thanks to the time zone difference. He finished

enter the American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona on a partial school grant for the first year in 1997. He got some money for the study in the ensuing years by himself. He had always dreamed of going to America and studying for an MBA degree. However, in the space of two months, he went to apply for an American visa three times and was rejected every time, again because they suspected he might be intending to emigrate. Miraculously, he got the visa on his fourth attempt, just one day before the expiration of the form he signed with the college. He bought an air ticket and packed on the same day and arrived in San Francisco just before the form was to expire thanks to the time zone difference. He finished

his MBA study after two years and returned to China with his wife. He is now a friend of the American people, just as I am.

It is entirely understandable that the US wants to tighten its visa grant control in its fight against international terrorism after the September 11 tragedy. The United States has since worked to cut the number of visas granted. *USA Today* reported that from October 1, 2000 to September 4, 2001, the US issued a total of 284,663 visas whereas from October 1, 2001 to September 4, 2002, it issued 224,324. According to the *New York Times*, deportations of illegal immigrants from Asia and Africa surged by nearly 27% in the last two years.

I believe that the United States will not change its fundamental political principle of an open society. However, reason is called for.

The most important thing to do is to trace a foreign student to see whether he is genuinely studying or not as terrorists do not write a label on their faces. I think young students should not have their visa applications rejected on account of their youth and marital status. They will be friends of America and help build bridges between China and the US in the 21st century. The cooperation and understanding between China and the US, two great nations, is essential to world peace and prosperity. I am afraid that by refusing entry to students, America may lose many, many friends in the future.

Charles Zhu, contributor to *Beijing Today*.

Can SARS Curb Our Taste for Exotic Animals?

By Cindy L. Jiang

While fear of SARS is subsiding, the debate about eating wild animals is becoming more heated.

Scientists believe SARS may have "jumped" to humans from wild animals, possibly during the process of turning them into an exotic dish. Further research is underway, but it would be a great advantage if the findings could help curb one of our bad habits: eating wild animals.

Some people go to restaurants seeking snakes and even rare or protected species such as swans or bears.

Some cities are even famous for offering certain local "spec-

cieties" and people fly in to enjoy them. Dongmen Wild Game Market in Shenzhen is famous for its huge scale and the fact that it sells all sorts of species.

So after the SARS coronavirus was first traced to the civet cat, scientists found no difficulty in finding more of the creatures for research in this market.

Even after this discovery, it seems people are still unwilling to abandon their taste for exotic animals. In early May, TV crews from Zhejiang Station presented a program after a secret investigation. They found state-protected wild frogs being scooped up into baskets and sold openly in local markets. The program

showed the vendors swearing to buyers that the frogs were the genuine "wild" ones, "not artificially raised".

According to Chinese Wildlife Protection Law published in 1988, hunting wild animals and trading them is forbidden, and eating protection-listed species is strictly prohibited.

People offer all sorts of reasons for eating wild animals. Some say they offer unique health benefits or that they are more delicious thanks to coming from unpolluted areas. Ordering these dishes is also seen as a good way of showing off to colleagues or friends.

According to the popular say-

ing, "everything that flies except planes and everything that runs on the ground except trains can be eaten."

The fact that it often involves breaking the law is not the only reason to stop cooking and eating wild animals. It can cause new, unidentified diseases which pose a serious risk to people everywhere. If people wake up to this, they may decide that exotic dishes are not worth the risk. It's ironic that the SARS outbreak may help in the protection of endangered species.

Cindy L. Jiang, deputy director of *Beijing Today*

SOUND BITES

The entire expansion will be completed in a little less than two years. With the expansion from 3,300 households to almost 25,000 households, we will be able to effectively measure the viewing habits of 820 million TV viewers in China."

— Forrest Didier, Nielsen Media Research's Asia Pacific

managing director. Nielsen now measures television ratings in 11 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing, and plans to expand that by 10 times in two years. As Nielsen said on Wednesday, China's advertising market — worth \$10 billion in 2002 — is set for double-digit growth annually in com-

ing years and should overtake Japan to become the world's second largest by 2010.

"I think the American people have a very good center of gravity and I wouldn't sell them short if I were you."

— US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said when asked

whether patience might be growing short at home over the continuing deaths of US troops in Iraq. Since US President George W. Bush declared on May 1 that major combat operations were over, at least 52 US troops have died in Iraq. Sixteen were killed in attacks and 36 in accidents and other "non-hostile" incidents, ac-

cording to the Pentagon.

"In art there is compassion, in compassion there is humanity and in humanity there is generosity and love. Gregory Peck gave us these attributes in full measure."

— Actor Brock Peters, a long-time friend and co-star of Peck in his most famous movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird." Movie stars rubbed shoulders with ordinary film fans on Monday as they paid final tribute to Gregory Peck, who died early Thursday last week at his home in Los Angeles, remembering him as one of the last heroes of Hollywood's golden era and a man symbolizing integrity on and off screen.

By Chen Ying

By Su Wei

Cheng Shijun, 24, was sentenced to death by Shenyang Intermediate People's Court on May 23 this year. Cheng, a primary school teacher, was found guilty on charges of sexual abuse and rape involving six girls in his class over the past two years. The girls' average age was nine.

Seven days later, Guo Wei, 20, a Beijinger, was sentenced to death by Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court. Two

An An, a girl in Tongzhou District, Beijing, did not report to police until early last year that she had been raped by her stepfather over a period of seven years ever since she was 10 years old. During that time, she ran away twice but each time she was found by her stepfather. "On the way home, he promised that he would not do it again. But he did," said An An.

An An says she cannot remember how it first happened. "I was just lying in bed watching TV and he got under my quilt. I never thought anything abnormal would happen. I always treated him as my father." She didn't tell her mother for over five years, partly because her stepfather beat her to stop her from saying anything.

An An says even after her mother found out her stepfather was raping her almost once a week she initially couldn't bring herself to sue him. "We didn't know anything about law. He once said that we had no evidence so no one would believe us," An An said. "I told my mother that it would be better several years later and that I did not want the family to be destroyed because of me. I did not want to incur any blame."

An An's mother says she is tortured by the thought that the victim was her daughter and the criminal was her husband. "I could not understand why he would do such a thing to her. I was willing to forgive and tolerate almost anything. I dreamed that he might stop hurting my daughter as he promised," she said. "Sometimes I wanted to sue him. But I did not want to be humiliated again. I have been divorced once before. It seems the more I tolerate, the more misery I incur."

The All China Women's Association says between 75 and 90 percent of child victims are raped or sexually abused by people they know.

Tong Lihua, vice president of Beijing Legal Studies for Protection of Minors Association, says children usually have a strong tendency to trust older people and feel the need to be cared for. "Sexual abuse goes from being a general expression of love to sexual activity. Unable to distinguish what the real intention of these adults is, children think it is their fault and feel shame," she said.

Wu Changzhen, law professor of China's Politics and Law University, says these children cannot be said blamed for feeling cowardly, especially those harmed by their family members or relatives. "The traditional Chinese view is that the disgrace of a family should never

be spread outside. People are less likely to believe words from a child. Children know that when they have some conflict with an adult, the adult is always believed to be right."

Ashamed to come forward

According to a story published in *Beijing Youth Daily* on May 19 this year, the juvenile legal consulting centers in China find that one adult usually rapes over a dozen children or one child for over five years before being caught.

Xiao Guo, a volunteer in a psychology consulting center for women and children in Yunnan, nearly became a rape victim at the age of 17.

She recalled an autumn night when she was on her way home alone after seeing a film. She was set upon by two men who tried to rape her. After she struggled and begged them, they let her go. She then talked to her mother and reported it to the police. "The two men were caught that night. I thought it was over and that everything would be fine." Her voice weakened. "But I never realized that my choice to report it to the police would ruin my life. I hate myself for reporting it. I hate my mother too. Why didn't she stop me?"

She says in the following days, a rumor spread in her community that she had been raped by the two men. "I told them the truth. But the more I explained, the more they talked about me," she said. "I felt like a gorilla in a zoo. Wherever I went, people would gossip about me." Her father also blamed her for bringing disgrace upon the family.

Chen Yunqian, director of the psychology consulting center in Yunnan, recalls that a 13-year-old girl, led by her parents to seek consulting services after being raped, said nothing but cried silently at the center. After talking to her parents, Chen found out that the girl was forced by police to tell them all the details of what had happened.

"People wearing police uniforms and driving police cars frequently came to her home. No police-woman was specially found to talk to the girl," she said.

Police at Daxian, Sichuan Province might never have caught the primary school headmaster who raped Liu Jing, 13. But last November, several primary school girls reported to police that the headmaster, Sun Quan, had exposed himself to them. Following an investigation, Sun confessed that he had sexually abused six junior middle school girls and raped one of them in a nearby middle school. When police went to the school, the school denied there had been

any such incident. Liu, whose picture was identified by Sun in his confession, denied that she had been raped. Because they failed to get sufficient evidence of Sun's crime, the police had to release him after one month.

From 1998 to 2002, of the 29 cases involving sexual abuse of children reported to Xishuangbanna Women and Children's Psychology Legal Consulting Service Center, Yunnan Province, victims in 20 cases actively sought legal help. But in the other nine cases, the victims were unwilling to sue because of the shame they felt they would incur.

Chen Deyu, the primary school teacher from Shiyang in Sichuan, was executed on February 3, 2002. He said he thought he would have got away with it if he had been able to reach agreement with the parents about compensation. "They accepted my apology and agreed not to report it to the police when I warned them to think about their daughters' future. But the amount they asked was too high for me to afford," he said.

Tong Lihua says some victims' parents do not know how to protect their children. "Out of concern for their children's reputation, they decide not to go to the police. But this lets criminals take advantage of their fear and continue to harm other children."

Wu Changzhen says around 50 percent of child victims resolve to keep their ordeal secret. "It is because their trust towards others has been destroyed," he said. "Their psychological level remains the same as when they were hurt. They try to forget and avoid the harm brought by such incidents."

Lifelong suffering

Tong says many victims of sexual abuse develop mental problems. "They often become problem children, with a range of psychological disorders."

A girl once hospitalized at Beijing University No.6 Hospital developed depression after being raped. Zhang Darong, her doctor, says the girl had a tendency towards self-injury. "She had terrible dreams in the first three months after being raped, and she tried to commit suicide," Zhang says.

Xiao Guo says she has lost all trust towards men. Since divorcing her husband she has been living alone with her 10-year-old son. "I once got to know another man. He was good to my son and me. But I doubted every word he said to me and everything he did for me," she said.

(*Pseudonyms are used for all the victims.*)

Photo / Tony Stone

Cycle of Abuse

months after he was released from prison in September last year, he raped a 12-year-old girl. In the 20 days after that, he sexually abused and raped another six children. Of these victims, the eldest was 12 and the youngest was five years old.

Getting away with it

Chen Youhai, a teacher in Tongzhou District, Beijing, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by Tongzhou People's Court on May 22, 2002. Since 2000, he had sexually abused 16 girls aged below 14 and raped two girls aged around 12.

Yang Chuanshan, a worker in Daxian, Sichuan Province, was caught by local police early last month. He had raped at least 15 girls in the past two years. He told the police that he never thought he would succeed in committing his crimes. "I am chicken-hearted," he said. "If one of these girls had shouted for help, I would have given up." Police also found that Yang did not carry any weapons.

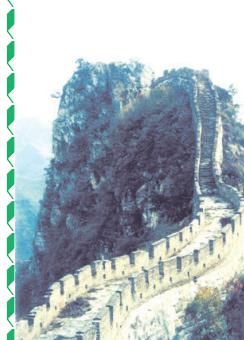
Within 15 months, Chen Deyu, 56, a teacher in a primary school in Shiyang, Ziyang City, Sichuan Province, sexually abused and raped seven girls aged between eight and eleven on more than 20 occasions. Ju Rong, the first girl to be abused by Chen, recalled that she did not know what being raped meant until the investigation. "He just asked me to stay in the classroom after class. He said he wanted to help me with my studies. It started when he asked me to take off my trousers," she told police. "My daughter once told me she felt pain," said Lan Feng, Ju's mother. "She then told me what Chen had done to her. But I couldn't believe it. Chen had been a teacher in our village for over 30 years and was due to retire soon."

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Leukemia Boy Cured

"I wondered what was going on up there and went to take a look," said Xia.

"I saw Doctor Tang Yongmin's gloves were soaked with blood. There was also blood on the floor. My heart sunk. What had happened? Why was the bag broken?"

"The operation was successful.

We did so much to save the boy. But we are being sued. We have been treated unjustly. After this incident, many children's parents did not dare to take such operations," said Zhang.



By Ivy Zhang

Xia Jian was certainly born with an auspicious name (Jian means healthy in Chinese). Unfortunately he was diagnosed with leukemia in 2000 when he was seven years old. Though he was born to a family of relatively modest means in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, his parents were determined to do everything in their power to save him.

The doctors told his father Xia Weilong and mother Weng Chunxia that a transfusion of the umbilical blood of a sibling was the best way to save the boy. So the couple tried for another child and gave birth to a baby girl the next year.

However, when the umbilical blood was taken out of the freezer at the Children's Hospital attached to the Medicine School of Zhejiang University in 2001, one of the three bags was broken. Most of the blood in that bag was contaminated and became useless. The remaining blood was used. But the hospital had to implement a back-up plan days later, implanting the boy's own peripheral blood into his body.

Xia Jian was later released from the hospital. Two years later, his leukemia has not relapsed so far. Doctors at the hospital feel happy for the boy and think the operation was a success. But the couple want more. They sued the hospital in 2002 asking not for compensation but another umbilical blood operation to cure Xia Jian completely.

Hangzhou Xiacheng District People's Court designated Zhejiang Medicine Society to look into the case. The result came out in March, and said the broken bag did not constitute a medical accident. It also said the hospital's diagnosis and treatment did not have any negative effect on the patient.

At present, another appraisal of the broken blood bag incident is under way. The court will give its verdict after the result of this investigation.

Desperate to save the boy

Xia Weilong used to work as a fishmonger and now works at a friend's company. His wife Weng Chunxia is unemployed.

On the morning of February 16, 2000, when Weng sent then-7-year-old Xia Jian to kindergarten, she noticed the little boy's neck was swollen and there were blood marks on his teeth. Weng brought her son to Putuo People's Hospital where she was told Xia Jian had leukemia.

The couple took the boy to Shanghai for further examinations. At Shanghai Xinhua Hospital, they were told his condition was acute lymph cell leukemia. The doctors said the boy should stay in the hospital and receive five-month chemotherapy treatment costing 150,000 yuan.

The couple could not afford the treatment so they went back home and sought help from the local government, media and society. They received donations worth 250,000 yuan.

Following the suggestion of doctors at the Children's Hospital, the couple decided to have a new baby to effect a radical cure of Xia Jian through umbilical blood stem cell transfer.

"The doctor told me the success rate of the operation is 85% to 90%. We were told the umbilical blood transfer would be most effective with little risk of rejection," Xia Weilong, the father, told *Beijing Today*.

The hospital later denied they

had told Xia the success rate was this high, saying Xia was the first such case at the hospital.

During Weng's pregnancy, she went to Shanghai Women and Babies Hospital to do matching tests four times despite the risk of abortion and harm to the mother. The tests proved positive.

"If the blood type of the baby failed to match our boy's, we would not want this baby. Our aim was to save our son's life. We didn't have strong feelings towards the unborn baby but we loved our son. We had to save him," said Xia.

On the morning of April 10, 2001, the baby girl was born through caesarean birth, 20 days ahead of due time.

A total of 150 ml of umbilical blood was collected. After the blood was diluted to 300 ml, it was put into three two-layer plastic bags. Then the blood was frozen, Zhang Chenmei, a spokesman for the hospital, told *Beijing Today*.

Blood bag broken

The operation was performed on June 22, 2001.

Xia said one week prior to his son's operation, he met the father of a girl who was having a similar operation at Zhengjian Chinese Medicine Hospital.

"The girl's father told me that the doctors defrosted the blood in 30 seconds," said Xia.

The operation room was on the fifth floor and the blood was defrosted on the sixth. Forty minutes passed. Xia got uneasy.

"I wondered what was going on up there and went to take a look," said Xia. "I saw Doctor Tang Yongmin's gloves were soaked with blood. There was also blood on the floor. My heart sunk. What had happened? Why was the bag broken?"

They did not tell me what happened. They told me it was okay and asked me to go downstairs to wait. The blood would be taken downstairs when it was ready," said Xia.

Then an intern doctor came out and told Xia the blood bag had broken because it was badly made. The bag wouldn't have broken if it had been imported, Xia believes.

They said they would calculate the cells in the remaining blood and decide whether to transfuse the umbilical blood or use Xia Jian's own peripheral blood."

They decided to use the umbilical blood. "But according to a report I read, the amount of blood they had left was far from enough for the operation," said Xia.

Xia said his son showed no sign of response after the transfusion. In the next 20 days, the boy had fevers from time to time.

On July 17, Xia Jian had a transfusion using his own peripheral blood. About one month later in August, Xia was released from hospital. The report read "Xia Jian's marrow has been completely remitted." Apparently he had recovered.

"Our aim was to effect a total cure, not a remittance," said Xia. "He had already had remittance before the operation. The test result showed that the marrow was no different before the operation and after his release from hospital."

Hospital explains

Zhang Chenmei said the hospital signed an agreement with Xia on marrow transfer and told the family beforehand that there were two methods of marrow

transfer. One is the use of umbilical blood taken from someone else, the other is the use of peripheral blood taken from the patient.

"The use of umbilical blood stem cells is new, both home and abroad," said Zhang. "It has a high success rate, but not 100%."

Zhang said doctors put the umbilical blood into three bags instead of one as a precaution.

When the first bag was defrosted, the internal bag was found to be broken. Most of the blood had flowed into the external bag. At this moment Xia stepped into the room. Zhang admitted there was blood on Tang Yongmin's gloves but denied there was blood on the floor.

Professor Tang Yongmin is an experienced doctor in the field of marrow transfer who has performed many similar operations abroad. This was the first time in his experience one of the blood bags had broken. "Xia might sus-

pect it was because of the quality of the bag," said Zhang. "But the bags are provided by Shanghai Blood Center. The other two bags were okay. If there was a problem with the bags, all of them would have broken."

Zhang said they had no way to check out the real reason why the bag broke.

The doctors decided the remaining 200 ml of umbilical blood was sufficient for the operation.

"We believe the marrow stem cell transfer was a success," said Zhang.

Zhang said when Xia Jian left the hospital, his tests showed that he was the same as a normal person. "The only difference is that he used to have leukemia. We can only say his leukemia is completely cured five to eight years after the transfer. It takes a long time to observe," he said.

As to Xia's concern about the efficacy of the peripheral blood

transfusion, Zhang said there was no need to worry.

Controversy continues

After Xia Jian left the hospital, Xia Weilong asked the hospital to find matching marrow or peripheral blood to perform another operation to effect a radical cure of his son.

"Otherwise, we should not have spent so much money and my wife and daughter would not have had to face such risks. It was all because they said it was better to do an umbilical blood transfusion," said Xia Weilong.

Nearly two years after the operation, a five-person medical group reviewed the case and decided another operation was not necessary.

"The child's situation is stable. They do not have to do the operation now. I agree on this point," said Xia. "But I want them to commit that they'll take the responsibility if my son's leukemia relapses, treating him and covering operation expens-

es. The relapse might occur 10 years later."

The hospital believes Xia Jian is doing well and they are unwilling to make any commitment. "We are very happy that the kid's health is good," said Zhang. "We cannot make any commitment. After the marrow transfer, the relapse rate is 50%. Usually, if it does not relapse within five years, relapse will not occur. Relapse is most likely in the first one or two years. If there is no sign of relapse in five years, it's most likely the leukemia has been completely cured."

Zhang said the hospital felt upset about the lawsuit. "The operation was successful. We did so much to save the boy. But we are being sued. We have been treated unjustly. After this incident, many children's parents did not dare to take such operations."

Xia said he would wait for the court's verdict. If he loses, he says he will appeal to a higher court.

Sexual Harassment Breakthrough

By Sun Ming

Sexual harassment has become a hot topic in China following the first ever success for a plaintiff in a sexual harassment case early this month. Also, legislation dealing with sexual harassment is finally to be written into the national law on protection of women's rights and interests.

According to the All China Women's Federation, the modification of the law was launched last Friday in Beijing and nearly 20 law experts are involved.

"To offer concrete protection to women and other minorities in society, the drafting of an anti-sexual harassment law is urgently needed," Wang Jiafu, the law researcher from China Academy of Social Sciences, who is also a member of the legislation group, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

First successful harassment lawsuit

Victims of sexual harassment had yet to win a case in China until a female teacher from Wuhan, Hubei Province, won her case against her former boss on June 9.

The married English teacher, 35, surnamed He, who was working at a business school in Wuhan, sued her ex-boss, surnamed Sheng, in July last year, accusing him of sexually harassing her since 2000. Sheng was the deputy head of the Teaching and Research Section but was dismissed due to "improper behavior" before the lawsuit.

On June 9, the Jianghan District Court ordered Sheng to apologize and pay 2,000 yuan as compensation for psychological harm to He, even though he strenuously denied the charges. Sheng appealed to the Wuhan Municipal Intermediate Court after the sentence.

"Sufficient evidence was the key reason why we won the case," Tang Jiangtao, He's lawyer, told assembled reporters after the judgment.

On January 28 last year, He's husband Fei Qing (pseudonym) took two friends to the school. They questioned Sheng about his sexual harassment of He. Sheng apologized on the spot. And at the request of Fei, Sheng wrote a guarantee saying he would not harass He again. This evidence was produced in court, where He's lawyer also played a tape recording of Sheng admitting that he harassed He.

Lack of evidence

Most plaintiffs have failed in their sexual harassment lawsuits due to their failure to provide what the court considered sufficient evidence.

China's first sexual harassment case in Xi'an, Shanxi Province in 2001 was a typical example.

According to the plaintiff, surnamed Tong, a worker in her thirties at a state-owned enterprise, since 1994 the general manager had harassed her while promising her a good job. She sternly rebuffed him, but this only aggravated him, and he tried on several different occasions to seduce her, demanding that she spend the night with him in a hotel. After a firm refusal, she claimed the general manager then deliberately set out to make her life difficult, and held back her benefits and bonuses.

In July 2001, Tong brought her suit to the Lianhu District People's Court. The case was tried on October 26, 2001. After two months' of hearings, the court rejected the plaintiff's prosecution for lack of sufficient evidence.

Tong's lawyer Ma Qiang showed his strong dissatisfaction with the result. He argued that during the trial, the plaintiff had produced direct evidence: her colleague heard her words of refusal like "Don't do that" outside the general manager's office. But the court didn't accept this evidence, saying the witness had not entered the office and so it was impossible to know what was happening in there. Also, as the witness did not hear the general manager's voice, it was impossible to ascertain whom Tong was refusing.

Regulations

After Tong lost her case, some suggested that as it is widely known how difficult it is to obtain evidence, perhaps courts should lower the required standards of evidence.

"Evidence is always the key factor in judging a case, even though it's very hard for victims of sexual harassment to collect evidence," said Xu Weihua, a law expert from the All China Women's Federation. Xu is also a member of the group which is responsible for legislation on sexual harassment.

Xu said that the legislation group would give clear regulations regarding evidence, using regulations in other countries as reference. "Both plaintiff and defendant have the burden of proof, which means that defendants are also obliged to prove their innocence," said Xu.

The new amendment of the na-

tional law on protection of women's rights and interests, which will be put into use in half a year, will also give a clear definition of sexual harassment, the measurement of its degree and the compensation that should be paid.

Actually, as early as 1998, some law professors appealed for a law on sexual harassment to the National People's Congress. But some law experts thought that it was too early to legislate on sexual harassment, owing to difficulties in obtaining evidence, measuring its degree and meting out appropriate penalties.

But with sexual harassment becoming a social phenomenon and an issue of public concern, more and more people have come to express their belief in the necessity to make laws that punish sexual harassment.

First sexual harassment suit in Beijing

Wang Jiafu told *Beijing Today* that victims of sexual harassment should collect evidence.

"Some serious cases result in psychological harm and other negative influences. The plaintiff of the current sexual harassment case in Beijing is an example," said Wang.

Lei Man, 25, the plaintiff of the lawsuit, told *Beijing Today* that she is still trying to collect convincing evidence against the defendant Jiao Bin.

Lei accused her former boss, Jiao Bin, 30, of harassing her six times within three months in 2001. At the time, Jiao was the head of the Commercial Photo Department of Founder Aode Company, a subsidiary of the Beijing University Founder Group.

Lei said that she remained silent about the incidents before resigning in October that year. After that she worked in five companies in Beijing and Shanghai.

"I realized gradually that he must have said something bad about me, because none of my colleagues were friendly towards me, even when I moved to Shanghai. I never told anyone that I had worked at Founder Aode, but one colleague in Shanghai asked me why I had left the company."

Lei thinks that she should have brought a lawsuit against Jiao earlier. In March this year, Lei sued Jiao for slander and sexual harassment. Lei, who is between jobs, admitted that her evidence was still insufficient. Jiao told *Beijing Today* that Lei's case was a pack of lies.

With sexual harassment becoming a social phenomenon and an issue of public concern, more and more people have come to express their belief in the necessity to make laws that punish sexual harassment.

Regulations

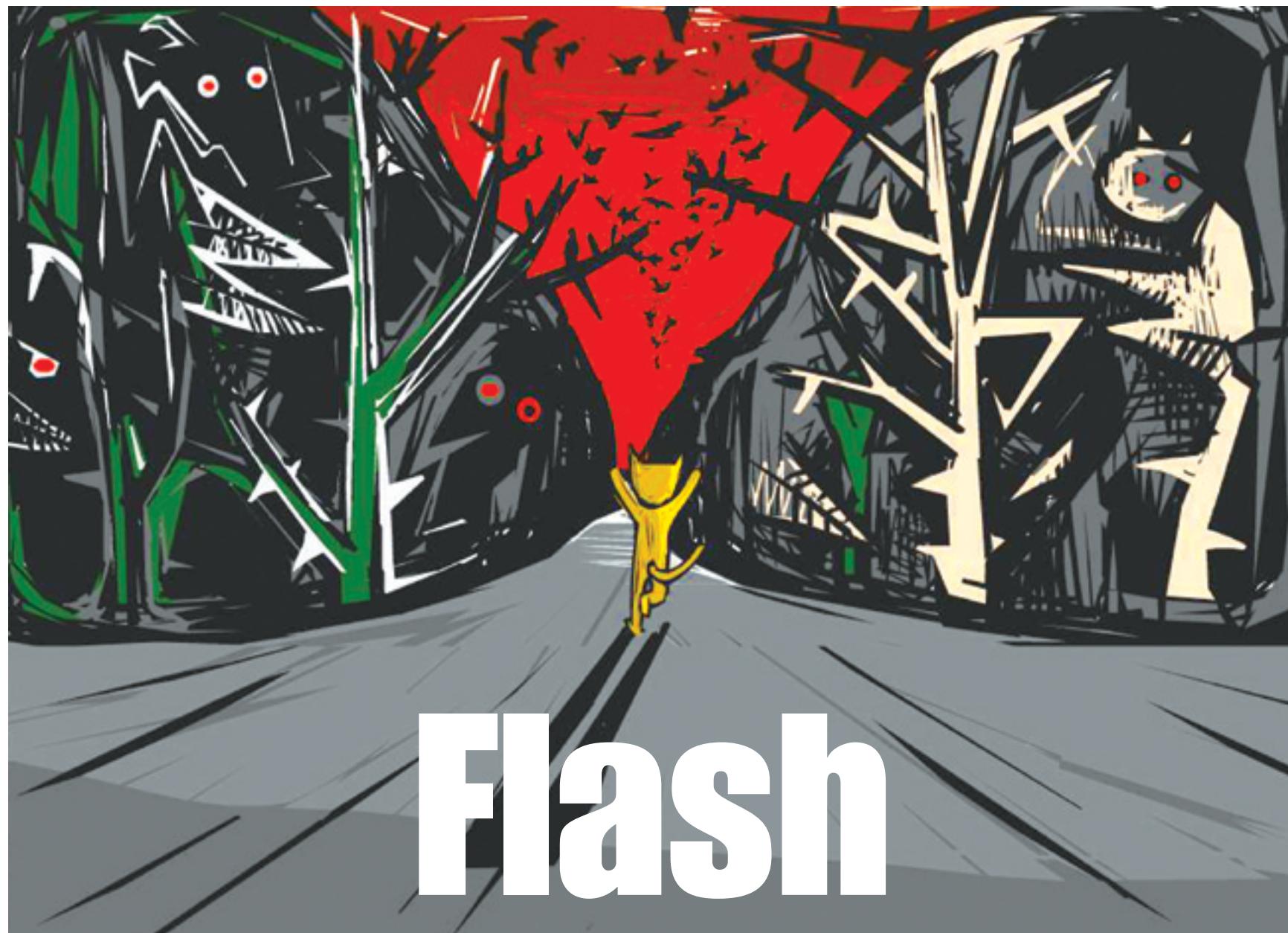
After Tong lost her case, some suggested that as it is widely known how difficult it is to obtain evidence, perhaps courts should lower the required standards of evidence.

"Evidence is always the key factor in judging a case, even though it's very hard for victims of sexual harassment to collect evidence," said Xu Weihua,

a law expert from the All China Women's Federation. Xu is also a member of the group which is responsible for legislation on sexual harassment.

Xu said that the legislation group would give clear regulations regarding evidence, using regulations in other countries as reference. "Both plaintiff and defendant have the burden of proof, which means that defendants are also obliged to prove their innocence," said Xu.

The new amendment of the na-



Flash

and

Bu Hua



By Zhao Pu

Bu Hua's cyber following grows by the day. The heartfelt animations she makes for websites like Sina and Tom.com have struck a chord. Born to an artistic family, the flash computer program is her chosen mode of expression, rather than a pen or a paint brush, but it's no less rewarding and she takes it just as seriously.

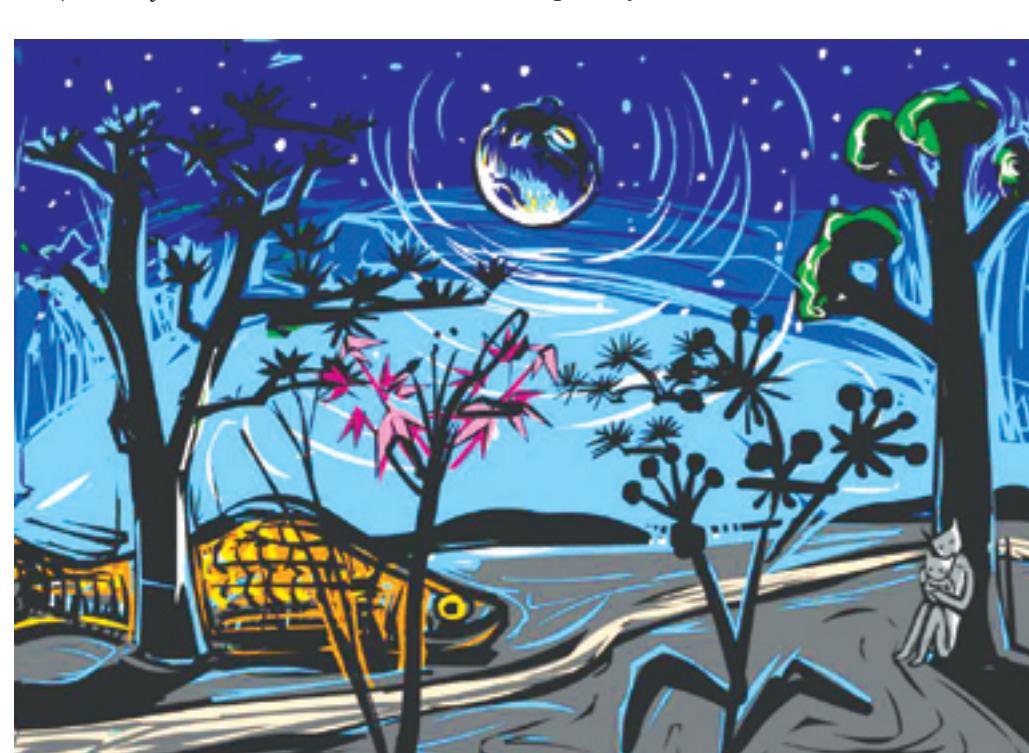
Deja Bu

Bu heard about flash from a friend in 2001, just as flash animation was becoming popular on the Internet. "A former classmate came to visit me. When I told her that I was going to work on making films with some friends, she said, 'You graduated from an academy of fine arts, you are a painter. Why make films? That's what graduates from film academy do. Why not work with flash? You can express ideas as well and you are still a painter."

Before that, Bu Hua had paid little attention to the Internet. When she went to the Flashempire.com (a portal for flash animation) for the first time, she was excited by what she found. "It reminded me of an animation artwork I once saw at an exhibition in Germany," she says.

Four years ago in 1997, Bu Hua was studying in Europe. She vividly remembers an exhibition she went to, one item of animation in particular. "It was an abstract work. I sat there and looked at it for a long time. What fascinated me was the way the artist expressed his idea so perfectly. I dreamed of creating something similar, but the thought of the complex techniques involved put me off," she recalls.

When she found out that flash enabled a kind of animation that she could produce on her own with a computer, she realized she could do it. "Flash made my dream come true," she says.



The Cat, a touching story of love and courage, is the most popular of Bu Hua's works on the Internet.

Too stubborn

Bu's first love was painting, which she had been practicing since her early childhood. But she became frustrated with its static form. "I wanted something dynamic and mobile to express my ideas," she says. So initially she turned to film.

She wrote the scripts, found cooperators and decided on the cast. But just as filming was about to get under way, she found out about flash. So she dropped the films and moved into the field of computer animation.

"I was sure it was a better choice for me, as I am a very stubborn person in art," she smiles. "I always expect others to follow me and listen to my ideas."

Flash solves that problem, as it involves no cooperation at all. She can do it all by herself, without conceding to any influence.

Floods of ideas

After settling on her new career, Bu Hua bought books and manuals on how to operate the computer program. Her eagerness to acquire the skill made the learning process very quick.

After a few days she began to create her first animation. The work she named "Ferocious Animals" took her more than a month to finish. But she decided not to try publishing it. "I thought it was good. But it seemed too simple and immature," she says.

Bu Hua used to work part-time as a reporter for a foreign arts magazine, interviewing Chinese contemporary artists. She quit the job in order to devote all her time and energy to making flash cartoons. Since the end of 2001 she has produced about 20. "I don't take much rest," she says. "I have ideas and inspirations all the

time. Usually when I'm making one cartoon, the idea for the next one comes into my mind. So after I finish one I'll immediately start on the next, before the idea fades away."

God, king and slave

A quote Bu remembers reading is, "In the world of art, the artist needs to create like a God, rule like a king and work like a slave."

In the flash making process, Bu Hua found her chance to be God was very limited. "To create like God is to come up with inspiration and ideas for new works. But that is a momentary excitement. The following step is to make something out of your abstract ideas and to give them a rational form. That is to rule like a king. Most of the time you are working like a slave, building up the whole thing little by little, making great efforts to perfect every detail, frustrated for every trouble on your way. It can be very painful, but at the same time extremely enjoyable."

Bu Hua uploaded 11 flash animations to Tom.com and Flash Empire. Hundreds of people have seen her works and sent encouraging comments. The most popular one so far has been *The Cat*, which came out last year. *The Puppet Show*, a comic cartoon showing people's fate being controlled like puppets on a string, is also popular.

In the detail

Some viewers have told Bu Hua that her cartoons lingered in their minds for a long time. She attributes this to her attention to the small details which are a vital part of her stories. For example in *The Cat*, an old cat sees her little son beaten by four bad cats so she rushes over and drives them away. Before going to her son, she pulls her own ears and covers her face for a while.

"She's frightened by the scene, her little son lying on the ground with blood on his face. She dares not touch him, as she's worried that he's dead," Bu Hua explains. "She had no courage to face the possibility of his death."

"It is a pity that many domestic film directors often ignore details," she adds. "That's why their works are not absorbing to the audience. Because sometimes the details are the most touching part in a good movie."

"In a banal movie, the patient's relatives will immediately run up to the surgeon after the operation to ask about the result. But it's not necessarily like that. You might hesitate, and waver between hope and fear before asking."

In future, she says she will go on making flash cartoons. But if she tires of it one day, she says she may try something else, even film. "But I'll always follow my feelings," she says.

Notes on My Creations

By Bu Hua / Translated by Zhang Huan



The Cat

The music I used in *The Cat* was composed for the movie *The Last Emperor*. I loved it when I first heard it but I wasn't working with flash then, so I just saved it on my computer. I didn't listen to it for a while, but when I did I found my admiration was as strong as before. Though the piece is not long, it is grand and magnificent, with the richness of a symphony as well as mystery and spiritualism.

The main theme of the music is an inspiring strength and all-out resistance, which was also part of my flash creation.



The Puppet Show

This tells the story of a human being. It begins by showing his activity and creativity and his ability to conquer problems and then describes his powerlessness: he is controlled by a string named destiny. Though the string is severed in the flash, in real life it always exists unless a person becomes a Buddha, having no desires or needs. Though it's a comic piece, the latter part is actually sad.



Mao Mao's Summer

This one has a realistic theme. Among the materials used for constructing Beijing, there are the old bricks and tiles from a soon-to-be-dismantled old house, odd toys, the Chinese fortune cat, the well-known Garfield cat, many Coca Cola cans and some little Erguotou liquor bottles. *Mao Mao's Summer* records the passing of time, the growth of the city, and unconscious changes in people's viewpoints.



Impermanence

Success cannot always be attained but there is no harm in reducing expectations of life. If you spend a lifetime climbing a mountain, then what does the mountain mean to you? Is it your success, or the obstacle in your life? Before and after the climb, you have totally different understandings of the mountain and you have experienced all sorts of feelings in between. The final collapse of the mountain signifies the climber's refreshed understanding of the mountain after climbing over it: so the mountain does not exist any longer.



Beijing Dishes

Beijing Dishes is a fairly simple one. I like the music very much. The strong local flavor in it is pleasing. It's about how young people sometimes look at the old city and its old history from a sarcastic and flippant point of view.



Farewell, Three Gorges

The Baiheliang inscriptions will be preserved in an underwater museum.

By Iris Miao

Everything is the same, but you are not here," the words from one of Byron's love letters reflect the feeling of loss among those who cherished the scenery of what were the Three Gorges.

With the recommencement of river traffic on Monday, the history of the Three Gorges turned a new page. For poets down through the ages, as well as lovers of poetry, the 200-kilometer-long Three Gorges, from Baidicheng, Sichuan to Nanjinguan, Hubei, represented far more than a simple geographic entity.

Some maintain that without the Three Gorges of Qutangxia, Wuxia, Xilingxia, the Yangtze River would be just a plain, albeit long, river, and the history of Chinese literature would not be the same.

The launch of the Three Gorges Project in 1994 was followed by the largest archaeological excavation project in history. More than 70 archaeological institutions participated in the work, with almost 10,000 people at one time involved. The focus of their attention were over 60

Paleolithic Age relics sites, over 80 Neolithic Age relics sites, over 100 ancient Ba people relics sites and cemeteries, 470 relics sites from the Han through to the Southern and Northern Dynasties (206 BC - 581 AD), and nearly 300 temples, residences and bridges from the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911).

The excavation unearthed over 6,000 cultural relics classified as "precious," to say nothing of over 60,000 "lesser" cultural relics. The discoveries provided repeated evidence that the Yangtze Basin area was another cradle of the Chinese civilization, along with the Yellow River.

Among the over 1,000 relics sites listed for protection by the Three Gorges Construction Committee, 723 are underground, 364 are above ground. The major protective measures taken were to preserve sites in their original location, to remove them entirely for relocation, or to record them by mapping, photographing and making rubbings.

History will remember this June. The Three Gorges permanently turned into a vast lake, and many relics sites,

including the ancient city of Badong, Hubei, which was listed among the top ten archaeology discoveries of 2002, Fengjie county, Fengdu county, Fuling county, Wushan county, Zhongxian County, have disappeared under the rising waters of the dam.

Worth mentioning are some of the towns in the submerged counties such as Wuxia town in Wushan County, Yong'an town in Fengjie County, Zhongzhou town in Zhongxian County, which have been partially moved to higher ground, while other towns have been completely relocated, such as Fuling, to the east bank of the river; Guizhou in Zigui County, to Maoping; and Yunyang to Shuangjiang 30 kilometers west.

Among all the protection projects, the Baiheliang inscriptions, Zhang Fei Temple, and Shibaozhai Tower in Chongqing have attracted the most attention.

Baiheliang inscriptions are the largest and the most important of the above ground projects. The inscriptions, which include low water markings and characters used to predict harvests, date back to as early as 763, during the Tang

Dynasty.

Altogether there are 165 inscriptions containing over 30,000 characters in various scripts. Besides the Tang inscription, there are 98 inscriptions from the Song Dynasty (960-1279), five from the Yuan (1271-1368), 16 from the Ming (1368-1644), 24 from the Qing (1644-1911), and 14 from modern times. The age of seven of the inscriptions is unclear.

An underwater museum covering all the inscriptions will be built to protect the only state level relics site in the area.

Shibaozhai, on Yuyin Mountain, lies 37 kilometers from Zhongxian County seat.

The 35-meter high wooden building is the tallest structure in the Chuandou style (the columns connect directly with the purlins, no beams are used) in existence. It is to be protected by a reinforcement of Yuyin Mountain and a long dyke around the building. By 2009, when passing Zhongxian by water, only an isolated island with a tower standing on it will be visible.

The estimated investment for the project exceeded 100 million yuan, and the basic construction will begin this

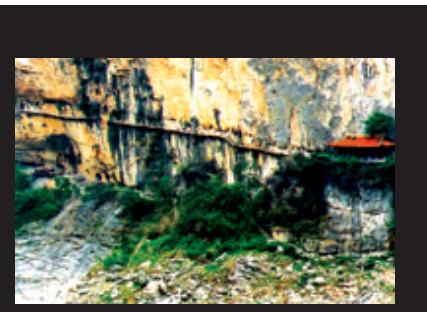
year.

The Zhang Fei Temple in Yunyang County is believed to have been constructed no later than the Song Dynasty, and has been damaged by floods on several occasions. Most of the remaining architecture was renovated during the reign of emperors Tongzhi to Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty (1862-1908). It covers a total area of 2,000 square meters, including the main halls and several pavilions.

The temple contains many paintings and calligraphy works from the Tang Dynasty through to modern times, as well as over 360 stone tablets and 217 pieces of wood carvings. The most distinctive architectural characteristic of the temple was that it harmoniously combines rocks, trees, the river and the temple together.

The new home of the temple will be on the other side of the Yangtze River, in the town of Panshi. The dismantling of the temple began in October, 2002, and reconstruction at the new site is almost complete. The new Zhang Fei Temple might be opened to the public next month.

Photos by Qian Bingge / Lu Beifeng / Yang Yonghui



Restoration of ancient cliff road at Daninghe has recently been completed.



Badong ancient city site



Container with tiger lid excavated from Ba people cemetery.



A bronze winged Han Dynasty figure excavated from Yunyang County.



Neolithic Age relics site at Wushan County

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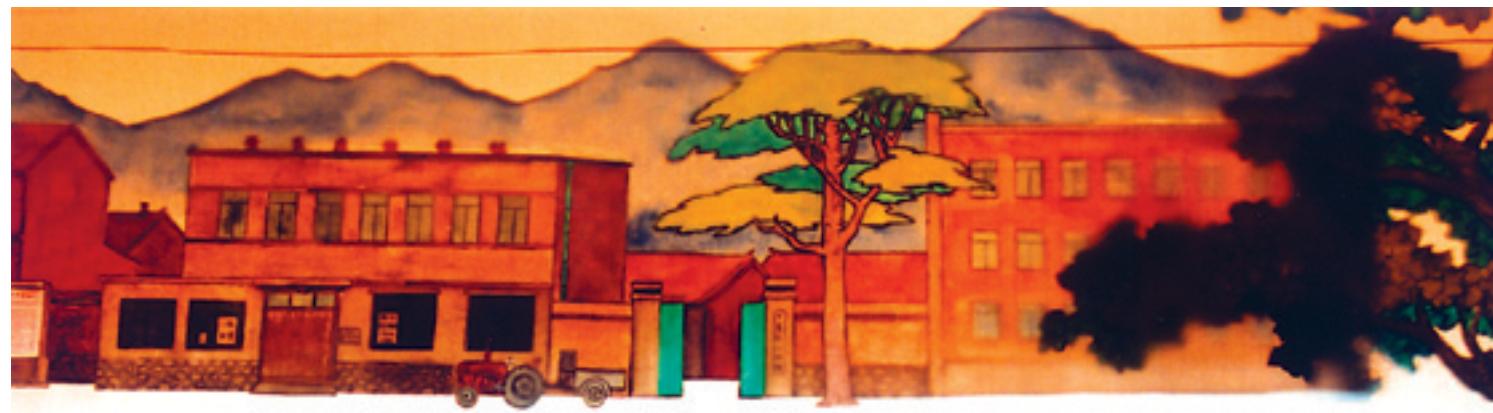
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By Yu Shanshan

One of the world's oldest performance art forms, shadow puppet theatre, is about to be brought into the 21st century. Film producer Sun Mingqiang, director Mao Yue and artists from the Tangshan Shadow Play Theatre are going to cooperate to film *Road to Riches*, a 90-minute-long shadow puppet movie, that will start shooting around June 26 and be completed



Real Shadow Magic Coming to Silver Screen

by the end of July.

The film's story is an adaptation of the Ping Opera *Water Wall* and depicts the lives of a people in a village as they seek their fortunes, and face a devastating flood. In adapting the story for the screen, it was given a more comic feel and several smaller characters were added.

First of its kind

"I am going to be able to make a kind of film no one have ever made before," said Sun. The inspiration for the shadow puppet film came from a fascination with traditional Chinese art he has possessed since boyhood. He added, "Many people have made Peking Opera films, so I came up with shadow puppet theatre, which I loved when I was a kid."

The story also stands out among the normal ranks of shadow theater plots, which traditionally center around ancient history and fairy tales. According to Sun, "This will prove the vitality of shadow puppets, which many people have ignored in this era of high-tech cartoons, and show they can be used to represent modern life." Breathing new life into shadow puppetry is no mean feat, considering the art form has been around for approximately 2,000 years.

"We had to create several internal revolutions, from music, singing and speaking methods, to puppetry and backdrop design," said director Mao Yue. Such innovation was facilitated by the skills of the members of the Tangshan Shadow Play Theatre, established in 1943 and still the standard for Chinese shadow play excellence.

Making shadows come live

The original small screen in the rehearsal hall of Tangshan Shadow Play Theatre has been replaced by a massive one that nearly covers an entire wall. At the same time, to further facilitate camera movement and zooming in and out, the shadow puppets themselves have been enlarged, a change made after three months designing and crafting.

According to Mao, the biggest difficulty facing the film has been moving from three-dimensional

Preliminary scenes from *Road to Riches*

to two-dimensional thinking. She told *Beijing Today*, "The point is, we should try every way possible to make audiences believe they are watching a performance by people with bodies and souls."

Several new inventions related to puppet making, light design and other aspects will be incorporated into the film. "In our film, you'll see lightening and storms and floods for the first time on a shadow play screen. And we also invented ways to represent fire and cell phones and other new stuff that could never appear in old performances. Our puppets can do modern dance, crack melon seeds and kiss," said the director.

The puppets also had to be specially designed so that the colors of their faces and clothes would look right on film. "Both full view and close-up shots will be used, like in a normal movie, but performers must keep the figures close to the screen and make them absolutely flat so that the image will not be blurry. That is not an easy thing to do," said Mao.

Less tradition, more feeling

For the voices of the puppets, Mao elected to go with the actors' natural Tangshan accents instead of traditional dramatic sounds.

As soon as she got to Tangshan three months ago to start the project, Mao realized she would have to make some radical changes to make a film that could be accepted by all audiences, particularly people who have little understanding of shadow

puppetry. "When I heard those shrieking voices and pretentious ways of speaking, I said, 'Stop! It doesn't work that way.' I mean, no audience could sit there and take that for an hour and a half," she told *Beijing Today*.

Instead, she wanted the performers to speak with more natural feeling, but enacting that change was easier said than done.

The artists said they did not feel comfortable not constricting their throats with their hands, as is done in standard performances to create sharp, high-pitch voices, and doubted whether the performance could still qualify as a shadow puppet play if it departed from tradition that greatly "It was a hard time," recalled Wang.

Mao also had to make the story more complicated to ensure it could hold people's interests for a full 90 minutes. Traditionally,

shadow puppet shows lasted no longer than half an hour, which seemed about all audiences could take of two-dimensional characters singing and dancing on a small stage. "In our film, every little while we add a new layer to the story to keep people watching," Mao said.

For the members of the Tangshan Shadow Play Theatre, who make a living from playing their traditional repertoire during international tours, filming *Road to Riches* promises to be an extraordinary and inspiring experience. "For a long time, we have been trying to think of how to do something new, but we always thought it was too risky. Now, this film has helped us take a new step," Wang Junjie, head of the theatre, said to *Beijing Today* from the film rehearsal hall on Monday.



Behind the screen at a rehearsal for the shadow puppet film Photo by Wang Wei



Photos provided by Sun Mingqiang

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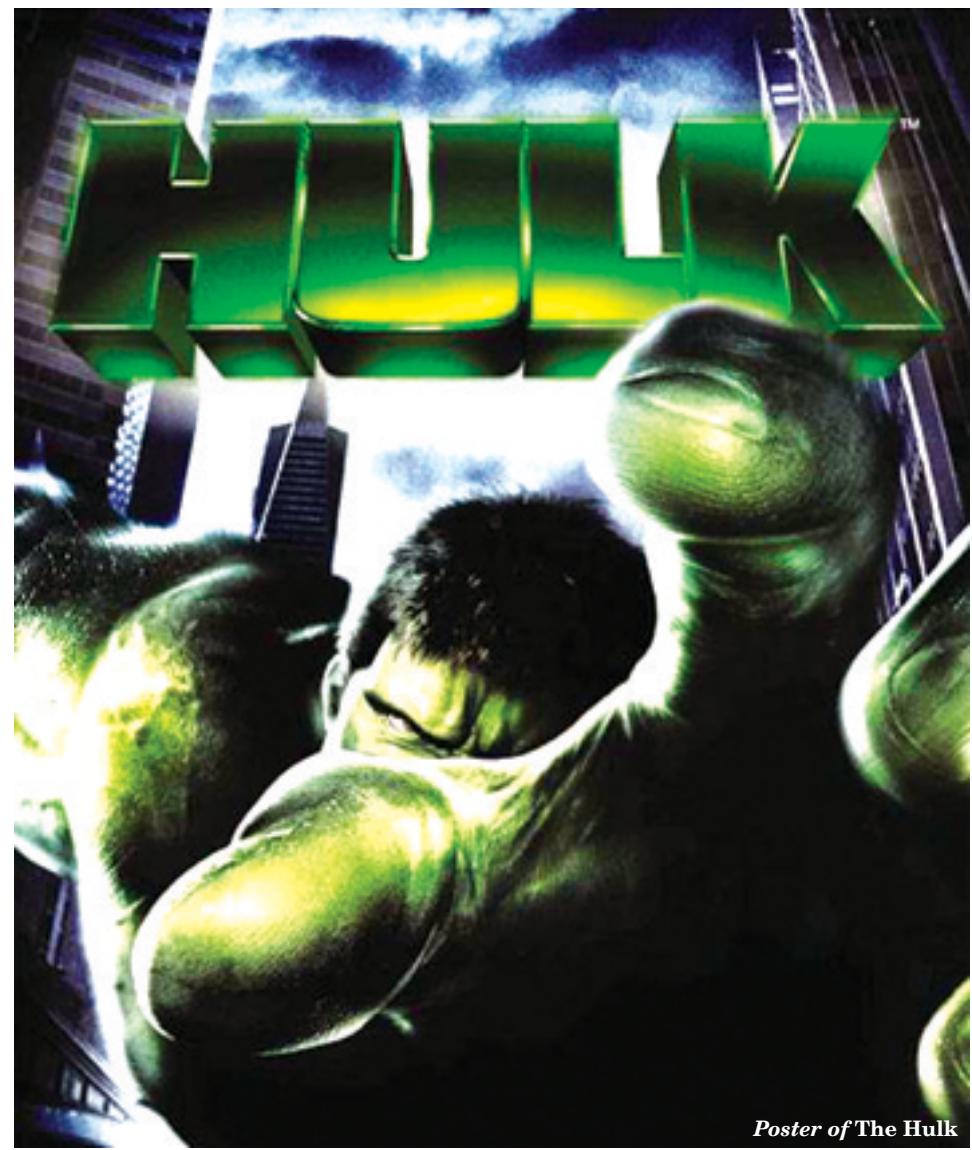
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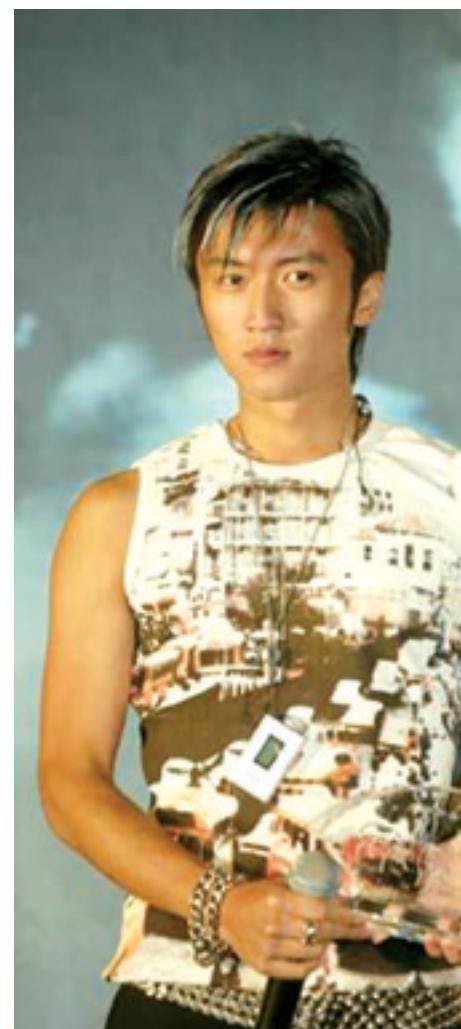
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Here Comes The Hulk



Poster of The Hulk



Nicholas Tse

Bad Boy Reborn

By Dong Nan

Trouble-beset Hong Kong pop star Nicholas Tse released his long-awaited new album *Reborn* Thursday last week.

With lyrics by wunderkind Lin Xin, Tse composed the music of several tracks himself. *Running with Love*, an emotional ballad picked up for a Japanese TV commercial looks set to become the album's first hit.

Following a traffic accident last April, Tse's name has been linked with a string of lawsuits and scandals, including affairs with pop star Faye Wang and movie star Cecilia Cheung. Asked about his recent troubles, the 23-year-old star said at a press conference, "I hope the media will pay more attention to my music and my album, and I will do my best as well!"

Peach Blossom Back in Theater

By Dong Nan

The People's Art Theater production of *Wo Ai Tao Hua* (*I Love Peach Blossom*) reopens at the The New People's Art Experimental Theater tonight.

Directed by renowned director Ren Ming, the play originally opened at the end of March, but the season came to a premature end on April 28th when theaters and other entertainment venues were closed as a measure to contain SARS.

"During the two months (when the theater was closed) we made some modifications to

By Dong Nan

Ang Lee's sci-fi action flick *The Hulk* makes its premiere in America this Wednesday.

Marking the first venture into this genre for the director of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the film is adapted from Marvel Comics' *The Incredible Hulk* and stars Eric Bana and Jennifer Connely.

In true comic book tradition, the plot involves a scientific experiment that accidentally gives our hero the ability to mutate into a super-strong being, and, of course, three hideous and evil super-mutants, who can only be stopped by the Hulk.

The \$130-million film combines live action with computer-generated imagery. Whether Ang Lee, who before *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, at least, was better known for somewhat more thoughtful pieces such as *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), and *The Wedding Banquet* (1993), can add a sci-fi hit to his impressive resume remains the multi-million dollar question.

HK Animation Wins Top French Award

By Nebula Dong

A Hong Kong made film, *My life as McDull*, has won the Cristal award for best feature at Frances Annecy Festival of animation.

An adaptation of Alice Mak's popular comic of the same name directed by Brian Tse, the film tells the story of McDull, a piglet who lives in Hong Kong with his single mother. McDull's everyday life revolves between his dreams of traveling the world, school and his sporting aspirations.

The film explores the sometimes suffocating link between a single mother and her child, and her ambitions for him in a competitive world.

Hong Kong actors Anthony Wong, (Huang Qiusheng) and Sandra Ng (Wu Junru) provide the voices of the two lead characters.



My life as McDull

WORLDWIDE



Three children stars of the Harry Potter films

New "Potter" Book Prompts Look at Films

Ahead

With the new *Harry Potter* book hitting retail shelves this week, the movie industry has trained an eye on whether the films about the British boy wizard can continue casting their lucrative spell over box offices and merchandise sales.

The stars, Daniel Radcliffe, who plays Potter, and Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, who portray his sidekicks Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, are aging beyond the range of their characters, and the series' loyal fans are growing older, too.

The movies have been major moneymakers for AOL Time Warner, which produced them and has an option to make movies of all of the seven planned books in the series by JK Rowling. (Reuters)



Michael Chiklis

TV Cop Michael Chiklis Sued in LA

The former managers of Michael Chiklis have sued the Emmy-winning actor for \$1 million, charging that success went to his head and he is tougher on his agents than his rogue cop TV character is on crooks in the hit series *The Shield*.

In a suit filed on Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court, the personal management firm Evolution Entertainment claims Chiklis has refused to pay commissions due on income generated from the FX cable television drama. (Reuters)

Prince Goes in All Directions on New Album

Prince will unveil a new studio album, *N.E.W.S.*, on

Thursday to members of his NPG Music Club Web site. It is not known if the set will be made available to traditional retail outlets.

The disc features four songs — *North, East, West* and *South* — each of which is 14 minutes long. NPG members can also preview three songs from the DVD *Prince Live at the Aladdin Las Vegas*, due later this year.

N.E.W.S. is Prince's first studio release since *The Rainbow Children*, which in December 2001 hit No. 4 on Billboard's Top Independent Albums chart and No. 109 on The Billboard 200. (Reuters)

Mariah Carey
Carey Makes Summer Tour More Intimate

Mariah Carey says she wants to get intimate with her fans, so she has reconfigured her upcoming concert tour.

Carey's "Charmbracelet" tour will play smaller venues, and Carey is letting fans have a say in the set list. Fans can vote for their favorite songs by logging on to Carey's official Web site, www.mariahcarey.com. (AP)

Rimes Declares She's Legally Blonde Too

Stating "we blondes have to stick together," LeAnn Rimes has contributed the lead single to the *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde* soundtrack.

Due July 1 via Curb, the set will offer Rimes' recording of a new Diane Warren song, *We Can*. Starring Reese Witherspoon, the MGM film is set to open July 2 in US theaters.

"We Can is a testament to the power of working for a common goal," Rimes says in a statement. (Reuters)



LeAnn Rimes



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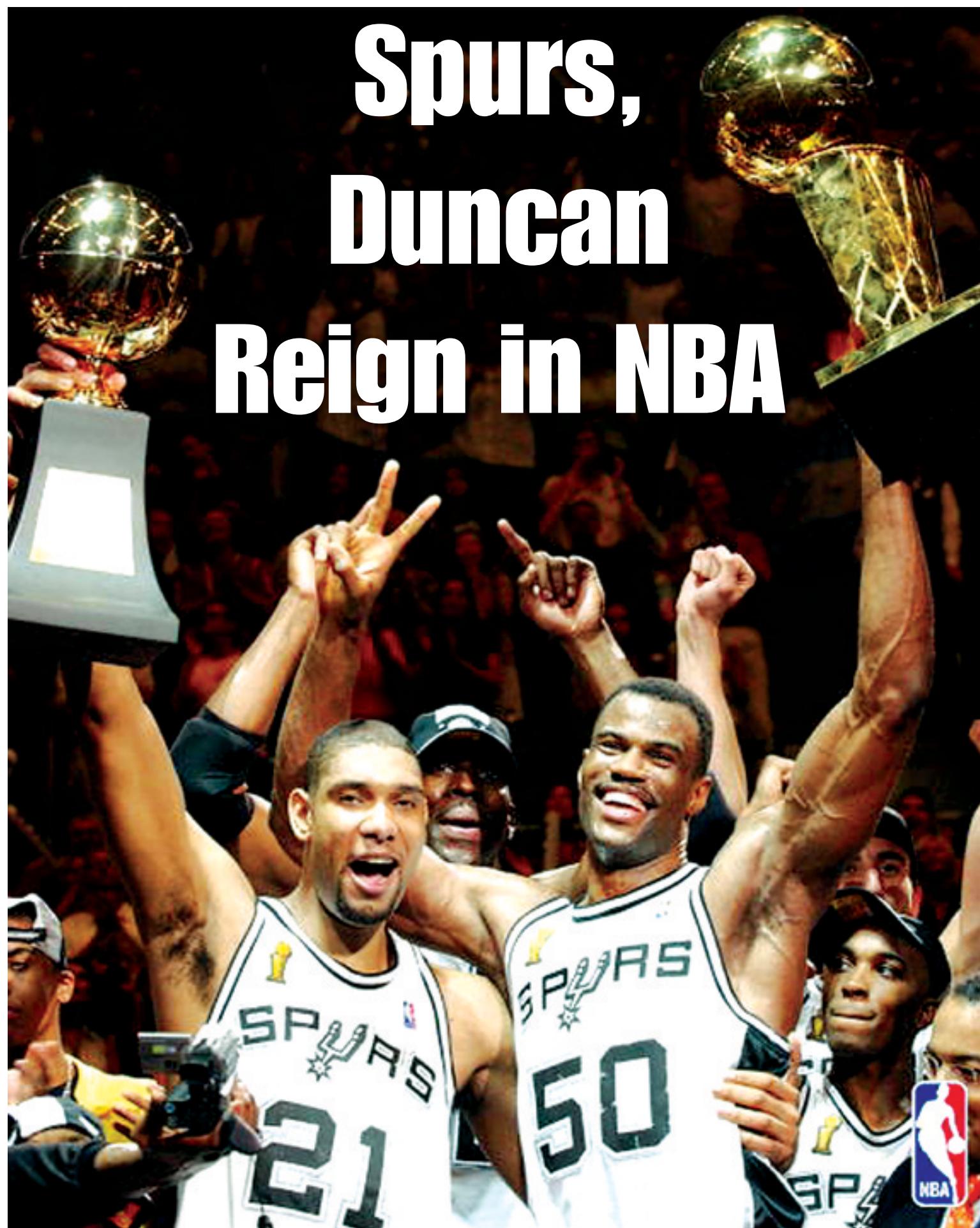
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Duncan (left) and Robinson celebrate Spurs' second championship

The San Antonio Spurs beat the New Jersey Nets 88-77 in game six of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals on Sunday, winning their second championship. The team won the best-of-seven series by four games to two.

Duncan: man of the year

The playoffs most valuable player (MVP) when the Spurs won their first NBA title in 1999, center Tim Duncan was once again the key to Sunday's victory, when he approached a quadruple-double (21 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists and 8 blocks) and bagged another MVP award.

For the third time in this postseason, the Spurs won a series in six games, but this was the only one that came to an end at the new SBC Center, the Spurs' home court.

"It's an incredible feeling to do it here," Duncan said at the press conference after the game. "The stress coming into here, you think you want to finish it in four or five games and get it over with. To be here, have an opportunity to win in front of our fans, give our fans kind of a treat, it's great for them, it's great for us."

Voted the league MVP for the second time in his career, Duncan becomes the ninth player to hold both regular season and playoff

MVP honors at the same time, joining such legendary stars as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and Shaquille O'Neal.

In the six final games, Duncan averaged 24.2 points, 17.0 rebounds, and 5.3 assists. Moreover, the center's 32 blocks set a finals record, breaking the previous high of 30 set by New York's Patrick Ewing in 1994.

However, Duncan seems to have little interest in individual honors and records. "I'm sure that he had absolutely no clue what his stats were," said San Antonio head coach Gregg Popovich. "He just knows what's going on in the game and what needs to be done."

Farewell, "Admiral"
Sunday's final will be the last game in the 14-year NBA career of David Robinson.

After collecting 13 points and 17 rebounds in game six and his second championship ring, "the Admiral" can now retire with his heart at ease. He has carried that nickname since he was a college star at the US Naval Academy.

"My last game, streamers flying, world champions, how could you write a better script than this," said Robinson at the press conference. "I've had my ups and downs in my career, but I'm going to end on the highest of highs. It's unbelievable."

Regarding his retirement, he

List of NBA Champions

Following is a list of all NBA champions since the league adopted a 2-3-2 (home court) system in 1985 after San Antonio's victory on Sunday:

Year	Champion	Opponent	Result
2002-03	San Antonio Spurs	New Jersey Nets	4-2
2001-02	Los Angeles Lakers	New Jersey Nets	4-0
2000-01	Los Angeles Lakers	Philadelphia 76ers	4-1
1999-00	Los Angeles Lakers	Indiana Pacers	4-2
1998-99	San Antonio Spurs	New York Knicks	4-1
1997-98	Chicago Bulls	Utah Jazz	4-2
1996-97	Chicago Bulls	Utah Jazz	4-2
1995-96	Chicago Bulls	Seattle SuperSonics	4-2
1994-95	Houston Rockets	Orlando Magic	4-0
1993-94	Houston Rockets	New York Knicks	4-3
1992-93	Chicago Bulls	Phoenix Suns	4-2
1991-92	Chicago Bulls	Portland Trail Blazers	4-2
1990-91	Chicago Bulls	Los Angeles Lakers	4-1
1989-90	Detroit Pistons	Portland Trail Blazers	4-1
1988-89	Detroit Pistons	Los Angeles Lakers	4-0
1987-88	Los Angeles Lakers	Detroit Pistons	4-3
1986-87	Los Angeles Lakers	Boston Celtics	4-2
1985-86	Boston Celtics	Houston Rockets	4-2
1984-85	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	4-2

List of NBA Finals Most Valuable Players

Following is a list of NBA finals Most Valuable Players (MVPs) since the league adopted a 2-3-2 (home court) system in 1985 after San Antonio beat the New Jersey Nets on Sunday:

Year	Player	Team
2002-03	Tim Duncan	San Antonio Spurs
2001-02	Shaquille O'Neal	Los Angeles Lakers
2000-01	Shaquille O'Neal	Los Angeles Lakers
1999-00	Shaquille O'Neal	Los Angeles Lakers
1998-99	Tim Duncan	San Antonio Spurs
1997-98	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1996-97	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1995-96	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1994-95	Hakeem Olajuwon	Houston Rockets
1993-94	Hakeem Olajuwon	Houston Rockets
1992-93	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1991-92	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1990-91	Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls
1989-90	Isiah Thomas	Detroit Pistons
1988-89	Joe Dumars	Detroit Pistons
1987-88	James Worthy	Los Angeles Lakers
1986-87	Magic Johnson	Boston Celtics
1985-86	Larry Bird	Los Angeles Lakers
1984-85	Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	Boston Celtics

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

continued, "I've seen this coming, so it's no surprise. I knew this was it, I knew this was supposed to be the time."

Robinson was one of the few players able to play their last NBA game in the same city in which they played their first.

Through 14 seasons, Robinson scored more than 20,000 points, including 71 in a single game, and collected more than 10,000 rebounds and 3,000 blocks. He was the NBA rookie of the year in 1990, the league's MVP in 1995 and has been selected an NBA all-star 10 times.

He now has two NBA championship titles and the two Olympic gold medals he won as a member of the US national teams at the 1992 and 1996 Summer Games.

In 1996, the seven-foot center was named one of the NBA's 50 greatest players.

"I'm just thrilled that David ended his career with a game like that," Popovich said. "His effort was really wonderful. He really dug down deep and showed how important it was to him to help us get this victory."

"For a second there on the court," Duncan said, "last couple

seconds, I really thought, 'You know what, I'm not gonna play with this guy again. I'm gonna have to come out on this court without him.' It's gonna be weird."

"David Robinson is a guy I truly admire as a basketball player and a person," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "If anyone deserved a farewell, to go out on top, besides us winning it, you would want David Robinson to because of the type of person he is."

For Spurs fans, "the Admiral" is more than a scoring machine, he is also a man with a kind heart and generous spirit. He once donated \$9 million to set up an independent school to help San Antonio's poor children.

Kidd: Spurs' New Target?

On Sunday, Reuters reported that the newly-crowned NBA champion Spurs are chasing another big prize for next season – New Jersey Nets free agent Jason Kidd.

Despite having won two championships in five years, the Spurs have made no attempt to hide their interest in Kidd, who is rated among the best playmakers the NBA has ever seen.

After being swept in last year's finals by the Los Angeles Lakers and losing this year to the Spurs, Kidd has made it clear his focus is on winning a title. But his decision might depend on what team can provide him with the best opportunity.

"You hate losing. It hurts just like last year. Last year was more of an embarrassing situation in that we were swept in the finals," Kidd said at the press conference after Sunday's game.

With the retirement of David Robinson, the Spurs will have \$15 million to import the Nets' guard, according to Reuters.

The Nets, however, are not likely to let the 30-year-old get away without a fight.

"Everybody knows how important [Kidd] is," said Nets coach Scott said at the press conference. "He's the engine to this team, he makes us go."

"Kidd is a basketball player but he is also a businessman, so he's going to explore his options. He's going to see what's best for him and his family. Hopefully when he comes to his conclusion, it will be New Jersey," added Scott.

China Chasing AFC Women's Championship

By Hou Mingxin

Fourteen women's soccer teams have gathered in Bangkok, Thailand to compete for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Championship 2003 held from June 8 to 21.

Defending champions North Korea look strong, as do China and Japan. The final match is scheduled for Sunday.

China determined to re-capture title

Last Friday, China became the first team to qualify for the semi-finals after overwhelming Vietnam 6-0, India 12-0 and Uzbekistan 11-0 in three group games.

After winning the tournament seven times in a row between 1986 and 1999, and then losing to the North Korea two years ago in Taiwan, the Chinese women are making no attempt to hide their desire to recapture the title.

"I have confidence we can win the championship again,"

said Chinese head coach Ma Liangxing in an interview with *Soccer News* last Monday in Bangkok.

Team captain Sun Wen echoed the coach when she told *Soccer News*, "We come here for one reason, just to win the title."

Already an automatic qualifier for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2003, which will be held in the US in September, China is using this tournament as training for that larger event.

North Korea after repeat performance

North Korea, champions in 2001, are looking to replicate their victory in Thailand.

While they are the favorites and expected to repeat such feats of two years ago as demolishing Singapore 24-0 in a group game, a semi-final with Japan presents a serious obstacle keeping the Koreans from smoothly sailing into the final.

A report in *Titan Sports* last Friday said Japan has made quick improvement and become stronger in the past two years, making the team a tough rival for the defending champions.

Before the championship, the North Korean team refused invitations from China to play one or two friendly matches, seen by some as a sign they were afraid of losing the games and their psychological advantage in Thailand, according to a report in *Soccer News* last Monday.

Group A: Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, North Korea and South Korea
Group B: Myanmar, Chinese Taipei, Guam, Philippines, Japan
Group C: China, Vietnam, India, Uzbekistan
Group games: June 8-17
Semi-finals: June 19
Final, 3rd/4th play-off: June 21



Chinese women football team wins 11-0 over Uzbekistan on June 13 Xinhua Photo

By James Liu

Sweet cherries, available fresh from May through July, make a tasty, transportable and nutritious snack. By far the most popular variety of sweet cherry around town is the *hongdeng* cherry, which has a deep red-mahogany skin, crisp flavor and small pit. Other sweet cherry varieties include the red-pink colored *jueze* and the smaller, heart-shaped *zaohong* imported from Italy.

According to the American Institute for Cancer Research, cherries contain several natural substances that can fight cancer. For example, anthocyanins in cherries act as potent antioxidants. These substances can isolate some destructive by-products of digestion and usher them safely from the body. Cherries also are far richer in iron than oranges, pears, apples and many other fruits.

In markets around the city, cherries go for around 12 yuan per kilogram, though prices can vary depending on variety, supplier and location. Like most produce, cherries are cheaper from peddlers than from supermarkets, but quality can be iffy. Below is a list of the major varieties of cherries available in Beijing:

Zaodan

Zaodan are middle-sized fruit, five to seven grams on average. This variety is the first to ripen in cherry season, and has a sweet taste, round shape and small pit.

Hongdeng (red lantern)

Hongdeng cherries weigh seven to nine grams on average. They have purple-red skin and bigger pits than *zaodan* cherries. This variety is popular and widely available.

Naweng

Relatively rare *naweng* cherries stand out with their yellow skin and are rather small, weighing six to eight grams each. That little package contains a lot of flavor, though, and a small pit.

Xianfeng

This species becomes ripe in mid-June and the biggest ones can reach 15.5 grams, while most are middle-sized, six to eight grams each. *Xianfeng* have small pits and a good taste.

Qiuixin (Purple cherry)

This is the smallest variety normally available in Beijing,

Summer

Is
a
Bowl
of

Cherries

weighing just 4.6 grams on average. *Qiuixin* cherries are harvested between late June and mid-July, and have dark purple skin, good flavor and small pits.

Picking Your Own

Now that SARS is under control and city dwellers can again head to suburban areas, it is perfect timing to go cherry picking. The major cherry orchards around the city are located in Haidian and Mentougou districts, and have been reopening to tourists since the end of May. Generally, these gardens charge 25 to 50 yuan per kilogram per person. While that is at least double market price, visitors can eat as many cherries as they want at the orchard and do not pay for what they do not take away.

In Haidian, cherry orchards are scattered around hot springs or the Bei'an river (北安河), such as the Sijiqing (四季青), Niegezhuang (聂各庄), Dongbeiwang (东北旺), Luyuan (绿苑), and Wenquanzhen (温泉镇) fruit gardens. Take the Badaling Highway and then leave the main road at Hui longguan (回龙观) Exit. Turn left at the first bridge (二拨子桥) and head west. Along the road are several fruit orchards

with eye-catching billboards. Yingtao Gou (Cherry Valley, 6188 2936) in southwestern Beijing is the biggest cherry plantation in the area. Its picking festival for this year started on May 23 and will end on June 30. Prospective pickers can take buses direct to Yingtao Gou at 8:30 am from the Pingguoyuan station or take bus 336 from Zhanlan Lu to Hetan (河滩) station then transfer to a local bus to Danli (担礼), though that is still 15 kilometers from the spot, necessitating a short taxi ride.

Picking Advice

- Always clean fresh-picked cherries with water and dry them with clean paper towels.
- Do not pick cherries without taste testing them first. Try several fruits from one tree and select the bigger and shiny-red ones.

- Good tree climbers will fare best, as fruits on lower branches will likely be picked over.

Recipes

The recipes below give two ways to bring cherries' beautiful color, fresh taste and disease-fighting abilities to the dinner table.

Cherry Rice

Cherry juice lends this rice dish a striking purplish color.

Ingredients

1 cup dark sweet cherries; 1 cup drained cherry liquid; 1 cup chicken broth; dash of nutmeg and cloves; dash of salt, optional; 1 cup rice

Procedure

Place cherry juice and

chicken broth in saucepan with rice, nutmeg and cloves. Bring to boil. Cover, reduce heat to simmer, and cook until rice is tender and all liquid is absorbed. Stir in cherries, add salt if desired. Makes 6 servings.

Cherry Salsa

This spicy-sweet condiment is a tasty match for chicken, turkey or pork, or it can be served as a side dish or a dip with chips.

Ingredients

1 cup dark sweet cherries, pitted; 2 tbsp mint, 3 tbsp green chili pepper, minced; 1 tsp lemon juice; salt to taste (optional)

Procedure

Finely chop all cherries, mint and pepper, then combine with other ingredients. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Makes 8 servings.

Purchasing Tips

- While size is not an indicator of maturity, color is. Cherries should be deep pink to black-red in color.

- Avoid containers of cherries with juice stains, which may be a sign that the cherries are crushed and possibly moldy.

- Soft, watery fruit means that cherries are overripe, while wrinkled fruit means they have been stored too long.

- Fresh cherries should be stored covered in the refrigerator. To freeze cherries, simply wash, drain, and pit them. Pack them into sturdy freezer containers and freeze.



Stewed weever, 48 yuan

Photo by Wang Yong



Sichuan Cuisine Runs in the Family

By James Liu

As the weather heats up, so do appetites for spice, sending Beijingers clambering to the innumerable Sichuan restaurants around town. Some popular Sichuan eateries, such as the South Beauty (Qiaojiangnan) restaurants, shoot for the high end of the market, but you definitely do not have to spend a lot to get excellent Sichuan food, thanks to restaurants such as Chuancui Shijia.

The eatery first opened as a modest, small restaurant in 1990, but now, 14 years later, it has opened three establishments around Haidian district. The one in Xiaoxitian is the root of the family tree.

Owner Xia Qinghua told *Beijing Today* that

he is a fifth-generation Sichuan chef, and his grandfather cooked for Zhu De, while his father was the nutritionist of Chen Yi, the first mayor of Shanghai after Liberation.

A signature dish at the three restaurants is stewed big head fish with fresh red pepper (*shijia kaimenhong*, 38 yuan), which comes out bright red and is very hot. Spicy chicken feet meat (*xian-gla zhangzhongbao*, 46 yuan) is made with the tiny meat at the center of chicken feet, and a plate of this delicacy takes an experienced chef half hour to prepare the materials. Other house specialties include mildly hot quanshui dishes, made with water used to soak peppers so there are no actual peppers included, such as rabbit stewed in quanshui (*quanshui zaitu*, 23 yuan).



Stewed weever, 48 yuan

Photo by Wang Yong

One of the few drawbacks of the restaurant is the tables can be greasy, so ask for a clean tablecloth or bring your own napkins to make sure you have a good space for eating.

Add: 4 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian
Open: 11 am - 2 pm, 5:30-9:30 pm
Tel: 6225 0746
Average cost: 30 yuan per person

Cooking Chinese at Home

Long Life Noodles in Vegetable Sauce

By James Liu

Noodles may be a common staple food in northern China, but in the minds of people throughout the country, they represent more than just full stomachs - long noodles stand for longevity. Thus, they are the most important food in birthday parties, when they are normally served last. Even in this era of garish frosted cakes, noodles are still a popular way to wish a person happiness and long life on their birthday.

Ingredients:

4 ounces wheat noodles; nonstick cooking spray; 1 tbsp minced fresh garlic; 1 medium cucumber, thinly sliced; 3 green onions, cut into 2-inch lengths and thinly sliced lengthwise; 1/2 tsp chili pepper flakes or to taste; 2 tbsp cornstarch; 2 cups beef broth; 1/2 tsp ground black pepper; 1/4 teaspoon five-spice powder (*wuxiangfen*) or to taste; 4 tsp sesame oil

Procedure:

1. Boil the noodles until tender. Drain the noodles in a colander and rinse with cold water. Set aside.

2. Lightly coat a nonstick wok or frying pan with cooking spray and place it over medium heat. Add the garlic, cucumber, green onions and pepper flakes. Cook until the garlic begins to brown, 2-3 minutes.

3. Dissolve the cornstarch in the broth and add it to the pan with the black pepper and five-spice powder. Stir occasionally until the sauce thickens.

4. Add the noodles to the vegetable mixture; toss. Sprinkle with sesame oil and serve hot.

Makes 3 servings.



Sautéed shrimp meat with Longjing tea

Hangzhou Chef Serves Flavors of Home

By James Liu

Since reopening at the end of May, Yi Pin Jiang Nan, a restaurant right behind the Ikea store on the North Third Ring Road, has quietly become a great place to eat after hiring a master chef with 20 years of experience cooking up authentic Hangzhou dishes. The past few weeks, Yang Xiaowei has been scouring the city's markets for the ingredients he needs to reproduce real Hangzhou flavors here in Beijing. "If I can't find good versions of things I need like dried bamboo shoots and duck, I'll just convince the manager to ship them in from Hangzhou," said the 40-year-old chef.

Located on the second floor in a residential block, the eatery is hidden among common restaurants and barbecue shops. In such shabby surroundings, the restaurant's modern décor, with French windows, carpets, a goldfish pond and framed squares of embroidered silk on the walls, stands out that much more.

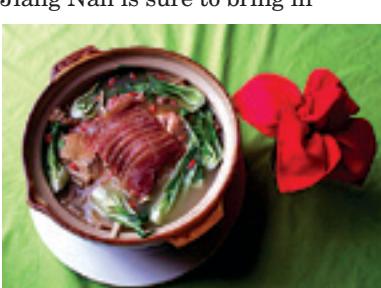
Despite the chef's pedigree and the luxurious decoration, dish prices are quite reasonable. The highest price item on the menu is sautéed shrimp meat with Longjing tea (*longjing xiaren*), which goes for 88 yuan. Among chef Yang's specialties are sweet-sour fish West Lake style (*xihu cuyu*, 28 yuan), stewed pork meat (*dongpo rou*, 8 yuan), and braised duck with dried bamboo shoots (*sungan laoya bao*, 68 yuan). A popular addition to the menu is sautéed lily bulbs with lichee (*baihe chao lizhi*, 28 yuan).

Diners used to copious *dongbei*-style dishes should note that the principle "less is more" is a central idea in Hangzhou cuisine. For example, the fish used for sweet-sour fish Western Lake style should not weigh over 650 grams, otherwise the meat will not come out tender.

The restaurant serves a special drink called fragrant vinegar (*guifei cu*) at 40 yuan per bottle, which can be mixed with wine, soft drinks or ice. With quality food at reasonable prices, Yi Pin Jiang Nan is sure to bring in customers from around the city, not only Ikea shoppers looking for something other than Swedish meatballs.

Add: Building 34, Yuzhong Xili, Madian, Xicheng
Open: 11 am - 2 pm, 4:30-9:30 pm
Tel: 6207 9988

Average cost: 30 yuan per person



Braised duck with dried bamboo shoots

Photos by Wang Yong

Exhibitions

Paper-Cut Exhibition

Works that represent objects from daily life such as glasses and cushions.

Where: Blue Dream Gallery, opposite 46 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** till June 30, 8:30 am - 12 pm **Tel:** 6415 5812

Group Exhibition

Group exhibition of four creative Chinese artists: Feng Feng (acrylic on canvas), Zheng Xuewu (mixed media on paper), and Lao Dao (mixed media on canvas).

Where: Phoenix Artist Studio, Tower B-2806, Phoenix Town, A-5 Shuguang Xili, Chaoyang **When:** till June 30, 10 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8440 6991

He Sen Solo Exhibition

He Sen from Chengdu paints blurred, sensual portraits of women from photographs projected onto a screen, allowing him to create eerie lighting effects. This is his third solo exhibition.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower **When:** till June 25, 10 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6525 1005

Oil Paintings

Over 18 oil paintings by Yan Bo. The theme of the exhibition is color in life and love between women and men.

Where: Hanmo Gallery, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang **When:** till June 24, 1-10 pm **Tel:** 6416 6273



Landscape by Zhang Daqian

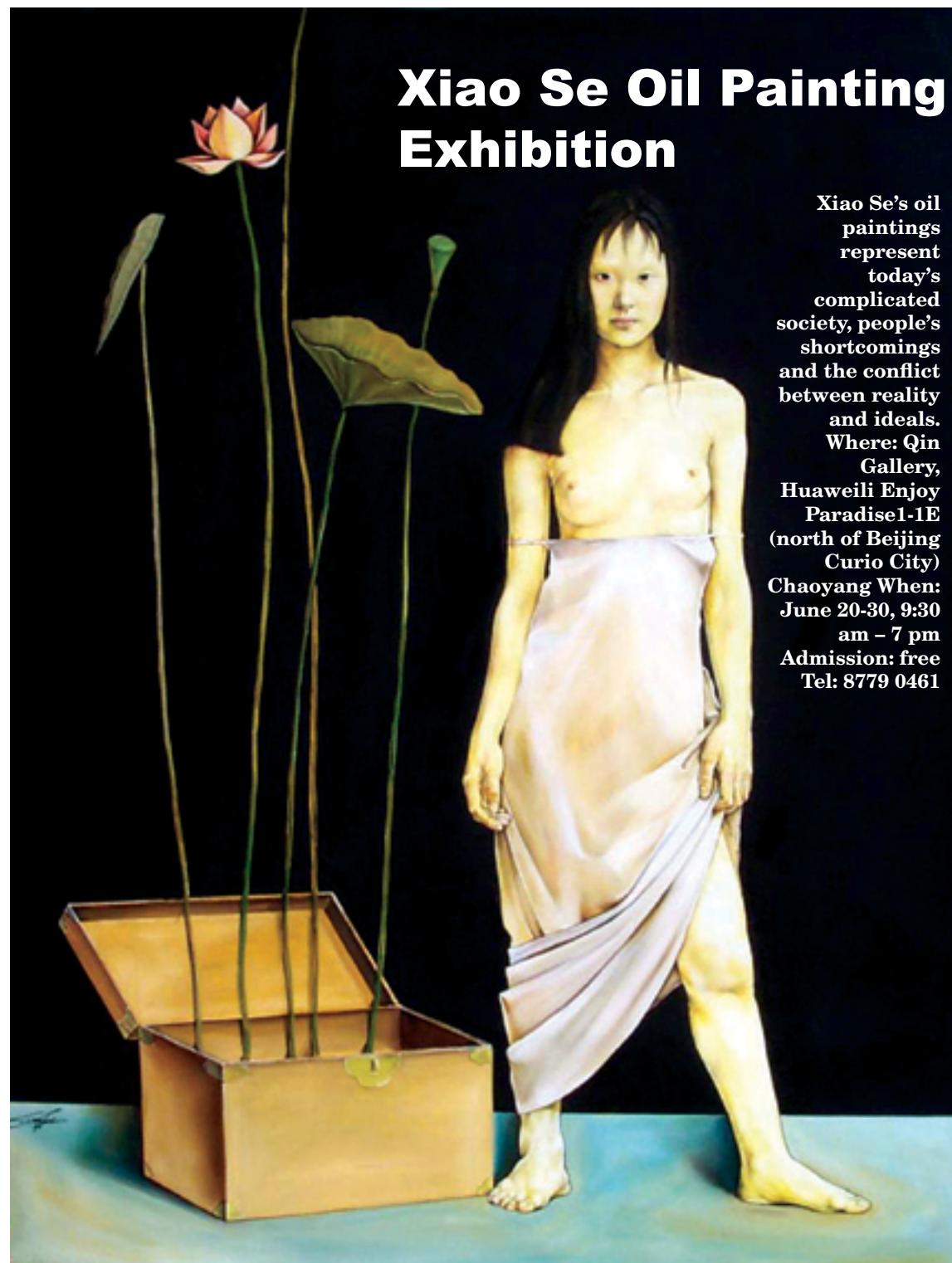
20th Century Selected Masterworks

Selected masterworks from more than 30 famed contemporary Chinese painters: Qi Baishi, Zhang Daqian, Lin Fengmian, and Wu Guanzhong.

Where: Wanfung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie **When:** June 21 - July 20, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320

Tang Society and Life Exhibition

The Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907)



is regarded as a high point in Chinese civilization. In this show, over 250 relics from that era will be on display, giving viewers a sense of daily life in Tang times.

Where: National Museum of Chinese History **When:** all June, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm **Admission:** adults 20 yuan, students 10 yuan **Tel:** 6512 8321



Acrobat by Ma Haifang

Collection Exhibition

For many years, Creation Gallery has collected paintings from many artists, such as Li Xiaoke,

Jia Haoyi, Fang Xiang and Ma Haifang, now on show.

Where: Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu **When:** till July 4, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570

Sports

Silver Pagoda Loop Walk

This loop walk starts from a village home to a 300 year-old stage and a temple. The houses in the village are mostly built of granite.

The trail loops around a holy mountain, passes a local shrine, goes through the "valley of mercy", heads up to the peak of the mountain and then leads back down along paved steps to pagodas at the foot of the mountain.

Where: Changping, northeast of Beijing **When:** June 22, meet 8:30 am outside Starbucks, return 5 pm **How much:** adults 150 yuan, children 100 yuan **Tel:** 13701003694

Email: bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Golf Days

Meet at selected golf courses for lunch at noon and then tee off at 1 pm, followed by after-game drinks and prize presentations.

Where: Chang'an Club **When:** June 27 **Tel:** 6522 9988 ext. 6660

Women Footballers Wanted

The China Football Club is currently organizing football activities for women. Women of all nationalities and playing abilities are welcome

Email: play@wangguoqunxin.com **Tel:** 6417 0495

Jams

On weekends, the Liu Yuan Quintet plays jazz favorites.

Where: CD Cafe, South gate of Agricultural Exhibition Center **When:** 7 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6506 8288

CD Jazz

Party to disco classics - dress up and get on down to the grooves with Beijing's hottest DJs, including Weng Weng. The best dressed 70s and 80s guys and girls can win a bottle of champagne.

Where: Yan Club, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** June 21, 9 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 8457 3506

Good Times

Tonight, Korean music, and tomorrow the public Sound Bureau crew featuring DJs Kuang You, Stone and more.

Where: Arena Bar, 161 Lanqiyang, opposite South Gate of Tsinghua University **When:** 10 pm **Tel:** 6252 1374

Music Night

Zhan Fu (Tomahawk) will perform tonight. Zhou Fengling, former guitarist for Dou Wei and songwriter for Faye Wang has formed his own band that will take the stage on Saturday.

Where: Get Lucky, 500 meters east of the south gate of University of International Business and Economics, Chaoyang **When:** June 20-21, 8 pm **Admission:** adults 40 yuan, students 20 yuan **Tel:** 6429 9109

Upstairs and Downstairs

Upstairs offers S-Press (funky reggae, dub), Gao Hu (funky house), Youdai (progressive house) and Dr. Green (psychedelic trance, sunrise special). Downstairs, there's Levi (US house) and Shapeshifter (funky disco, techno).

Where: Ritan Park South Gate **When:** June 20, 10 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 8562 2380

Happy Hour

Lucky draw prizes of three Evolution Fitness memberships, a bottle of champagne from Links Relocations, a coffeemaker with Uganda coffee from Crane Coffee and other great gifts.

Where: Club FM, Nankou, Ritan Gongyuan **When:** June 25, 6:30 pm **Tel:** 8562 2308

Movies

The Sun Has Ears (Taiyang You Er)

Directed by Yan Hao, starring Zhang Yu, You Yong. This is a poignant story of a peasant woman in northern China in the 1920's. She and her husband are so poor that they have no money for food. The husband decides to "loan" his wife to a military officer for a couple of days in return for food. For once, having enough to eat, the woman begins to discover her capacity for independence. In Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuai Beilu **When:** June 20-21, 8 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan, includes a beer/non-alcoholic drink **Tel:** 6430 1398

Devdas

Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, starring Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai, Madhuri Dixit, Jackie Shroff, Kiron Kher, Smita Jaykar.

This is the tragic love story of Devdas and Paro, whose special bond since childhood is put to the test when Devdas is sent away to England to further his studies. Paro waits for him through many difficult years. When he finally returns Paro's world lights up again. However thanks to a meddling sister-in-law, the love story takes an unfortunate turn after Devdas' mother refuses to accept Paro as her daughter-in-law. In Hindi with Chinese subtitles

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Haidian **When:** June 21, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6279 1280



The beautiful Paro from Devdas

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By Guo Yuandan

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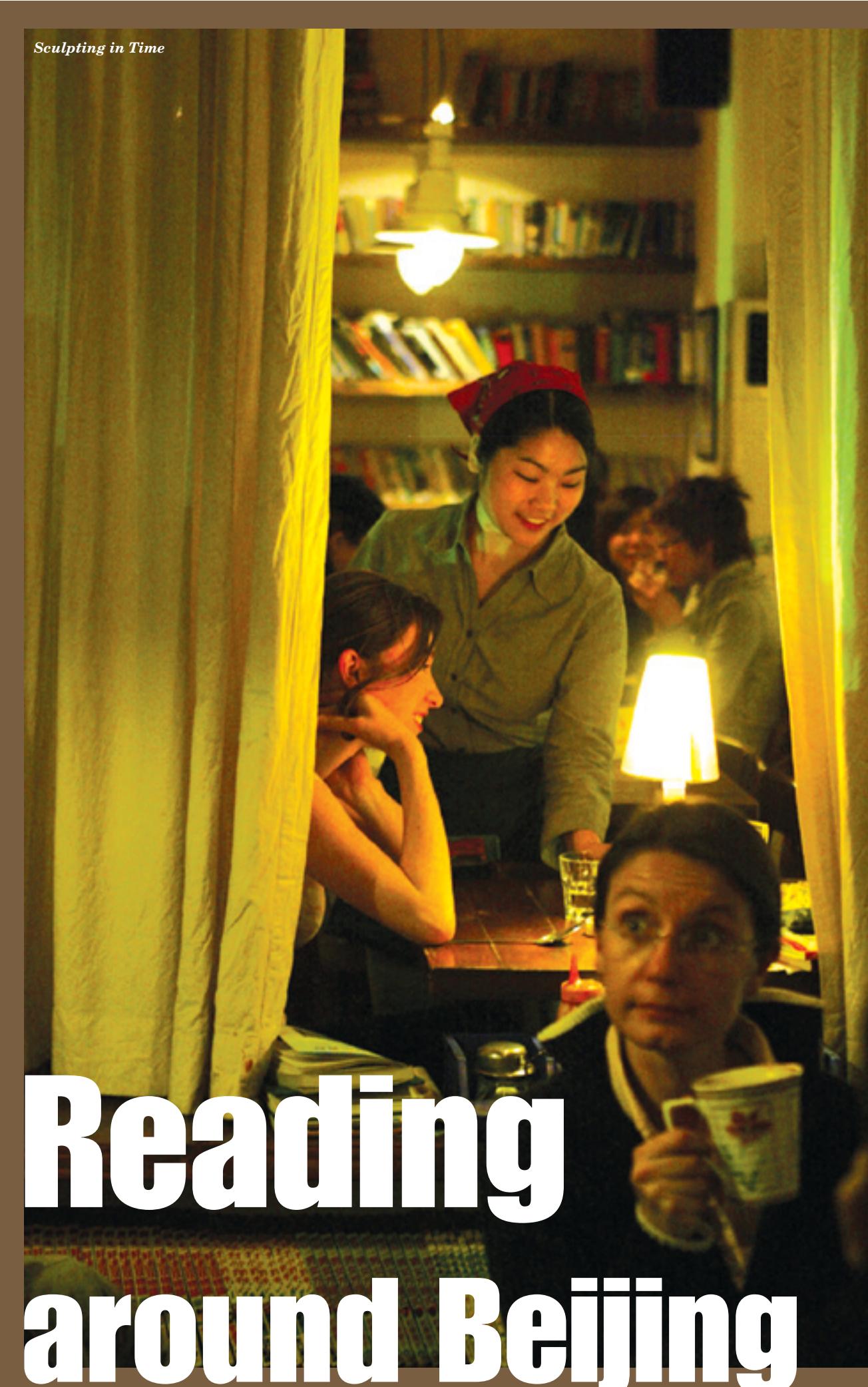
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Sculpting in Time



Reading around Beijing



Xingshe Congcong



Thinkers



Pass By



Away



Water Color

By Chen Jie/Helen Hong

Books and coffee have long proven to be an irresistible combination. What better alternative to weekend sporting activities could there be than to while away a Sunday morning sitting in a cool cafe lined with bookshelves browsing through a magazine or six, brushing up on your Chinese, or perhaps finally making a start on *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Beijing boasts numerous book-cafes, or shuba, most of them in the university district of Haidian, that actively promote this sort of civilized behavior.

Xingshe Congcong (行摄匆匆)

Situated to the north of Beijing Library, Xingshe Congcong opens daily at 11 am.

The distinctive feature of this cafe is that all the books are about travel, geography and exploration. The books all belong to the manager, Jiang Yu'er, and are available for perusal by customers at no charge.

Several big yellow paper lanterns hang from the ceiling and two of the walls are covered with travel photographs. A small room off to one side offers a quieter, more brightly lit environment.

There is a slide projector that customers are invited to make use of, which is also used for occasional lectures about traveling, mountaineering and cave exploration.

Jiang describes travel and photography as his favorite pastimes. His greatest source of pride among the collection of books and magazines is a complete set of *National Geographic* from 1960 to 2000.

Jiang and several friends opened the bar to provide a venue in which people with similar interests could meet and exchange ideas. The name "Xingshe Congcong," literally "traveling and photographing" not only reveals the theme of the bar, but also refers to a Chinese idiom meaning "cherishing time and life."

The book bar offers a variety of services, including a message board for travelers to organize expeditions, and detailed tour guides for a variety of destinations, freely available to customers, with the proviso that they contribute information about the place on their return.

*Ice coffee: 22 yuan
Pomegranate black tea: 16 yuan
Ice cream: 18 yuan
Homemade cake: 15 yuan
Types of books: travel, photography
Where: 33, Nanda Jie, Zhongguancun, Haidian
Tel: 6846 3550
Open: 11 am - 1 am*

Sculpting in Time (Diaoake Shiguang)

The original Sculpting in Time, near the east gate of Beijing University is long gone, but its two successors, in Weigongcun and at the Fragrant Hills are just as cozy and inviting.

The Weigongcun cafe can be a little hard to find, with its postcard sized sign. Inside, it has something of a European feel, with wooden ceiling and bar, bookshelf-lined walls and the pervasive aroma of coffee.

There are thirty tables and by eight every evening, most will be occupied. The small room with an arched door is brighter and quieter, and students often do their homework there.

There are books and magazines from all over the world on film, philosophy, literature, and advertising, as well as some 2,000 pictorials.

Zhuang Zai, the owner, comes from Taiwan and is a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy.

*Cappuccino: 25 yuan, 30 yuan
Lavender tea: 35 yuan
Mocha cake: 10 yuan
Almond cookie: 10 yuan
Types of books: news, foreign language, fashion periodicals*

Weigongcun branch

Where: 7 Weigongcun Lu, (south gate of Beijing Institute of Technology), Haidian
Tel: 6894 6825
Open: 8:30 am - 1 am

Fragrant Hills branch

Where: 50 Maimai Jie, Xiangshan, Haidian
Tel: 8259 0040
Open: 10 am - 10:30 pm

Away (Meng Lu Ren)

This tiny cafe only holds five small tables. It is simple but elegant and cozy. The owner, a woman called Wang Hui, says, "There are over 1,000 books in my bar, and all of them are my own."

There are books about literature, film and travel, and a range of maga-

zines such as *Elle*, *Trends*, and *Zhao-le*, as well as several scholarly tomes concerning women such as *The History of Breasts and Genders* and *China*.

"I live nearby, and often come here to read books," says customer Xiao Wei, "I'm working in a company, but I'm preparing for the entrance exams of graduate student. It is quiet here, so usually I bring my own books and study for hours. When I'm tired of study, I read magazines."

According to the waiters, students from some of the nearby universities are the regular customers.

*Black coffee: 12 yuan
Cheesecake: 16 yuan
Mocha cake: 12 yuan
Pizza: 28 yuan*

Types of books: fashion, women's interest

Weigongcun branch

Where: 3 Weigongcun Lu, opposite the north gate of Yuanmingyuan, Haidian

*Tel: 6845 1147
Open: 2 pm - 1 am*

Chengfulu branch

Where: A1, Beiheyan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

*Tel: 8261 3756
Open: 9 am - 1 am*

Thinkers Bar (Xing Ke)

Thinkers bar and Wansheng bookstore are closely related. In most book bars, cafe is only a small part in the bookstore, but Thinkers is independent from the very beginning", says Zhang Huiping, wife of owner Liu Su.

Liu describes the relationship between Thinkers bar and Wansheng bookstore, "Here, many book buyers know each other, but there is no place for them to chat while Thinkers provides such a place. Many people like to look through books as soon as they buy them. Isn't it pleasant to sit down and read while having a coffee or tea and enjoying some music?"

Most of the books for free reading in the book bar are to do with social sciences. Pictorials such as *Wine and Coffee* that are not sold in Wansheng are available and extremely popular here.

*Coffee: 25 yuan
Ice tea: 15/22 yuan
Cheesecake: 12 yuan
Pizza: from 35 yuan*

*Types of books: University magazines, periodicals and various books
Where: Teachers Building 5, (400 meters east of the east gate of Beijing University, Chengfu Lu, Haidian
Tel: 6276 8752
Open: 10 am - midnight*

Water Color Book Café (Shuimu Shufang)

Gao Hongbin, one of the owners of Water Color Book Cafe says, "We want to create something between a neighborhood cafe, and a study. College students and local residents can come here for books and coffee."

The owners are several young book lovers, for whom the ideal book bar should have the fragrance of books and coffee, melodious music of piano, paintings on the wall, and bamboo growing outside the window.

Still in its "soft opening" stage, the cafe will in the future hold activities such as book launches and lectures.

*Cappuccino: 18 yuan
Sandwiches: 15 to 22 yuan
Spaghetti: 18 to 22 yuan*

*Types of books: news, foreign language, fashion periodicals
Where: 1st floor, Building 1, Huagangjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian
Tel: 8286 7772
Open: 9 am - 10 pm*

Pass By Bar (Guoke)

Pass By Bar is hidden away in a small hutong not far from Houhai. Owner Xiao Bian'er confesses to a passion for hutongs and is a keen traveler. The bar, once a courtyard house, is divided into two parts, the south room and the north room, and also has some outdoor seating.

The north room tends to be filled with often noisy diners, while the south room is more tranquil. Travel books are piled up on bookshelves and the windowsills, and budget travelers come here to find and exchange information about travel in China and abroad.

*Tea: 18 yuan
Pasta: 30 yuan*

*Salad: 35 yuan
Pizza: 40 yuan
Types of books: travel
Where: 108 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng
Open: 10:30 am - 2 am
Tel: 8403 8004*

Photos provided by Lin Hui